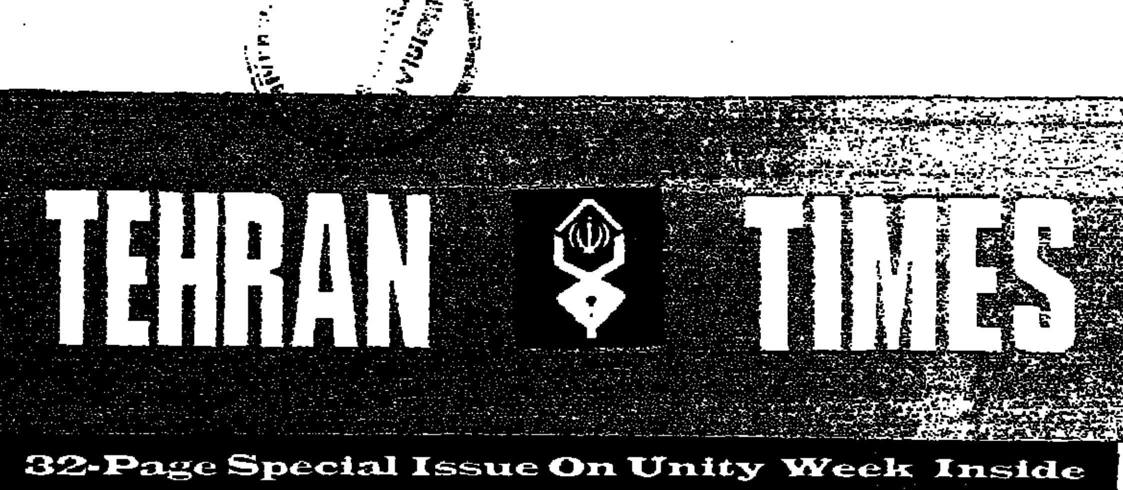


48 PAGES, PRICE 200 RIALS

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MPs Demand Explanation From Besharati on Murderer Case

TEHRAN — 12 members of Parliament on Sunday delivered a letter to Majlis speaker Nateq Nouri asking for presence of Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati in a session of commission on internal affairs and councils to give explanations on the numerous murders committed by a man known as the Bat of Tehran's Nights.

The MPs listed questions to be answered by the interior minister including why the man with criminal records had been left free to commit so many murders.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Saudi Arabia Fires Short-Range Missile

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia fired its own surface-to-surface missile at the weekend to mark the inauguration of a new test site in the Persian Gulf desert kingdom.

Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn Abdel Aziz launched the rocket with a range of 62 kilometers (38 miles) on Saturday at the site at Al-Kharj, around 100 kilometers (60 miles) south of Riyadh.

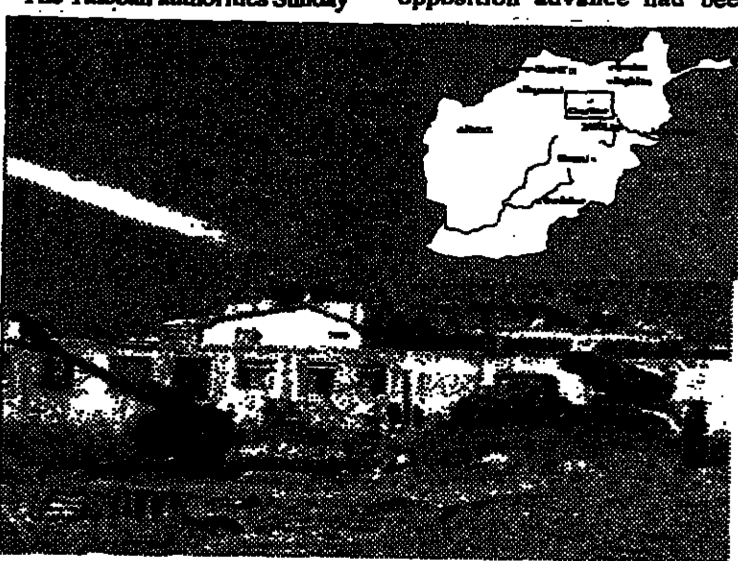
"Our country possesses strategic missiles with a range of 35 to 60 kilometers (22 to 37 miles), and it's not a secret to anyone," Prince Sultan told journalists.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Hundreds Killed in Dramatic Setback to Taleban

KABUL — In a dramatic military setback Afghanistan's hard-line Taleban movement lost a key provincial capital and hundreds of fighters north of Kabul, opposition sources said Sunday.

The Taleban authorities Sunday



admitted they had lost the northern provincial capital of Charikar to opposition troops led by the Afghan government's Defense Minister Ahmed Shah Masood, Afghan sources said.

However they refuted another opposition claim that the strategic Bagram Airbase outside Kabul also fell in a dramatic overnight assault against the Taleban militia.

A Taleban official, quoted by the private Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), said a "counter offensive has been launched after the fall of Charikar," located 64 kilometers (40 miles) north of Kabul.

The official in Taleban's southwestern headquarters of Kandahar told the AIP by telephone that the opposition advance had been "stopped" and fighting was now going on near the Bagram Airbase, 50 kilometers (30 miles) north of the Afghan capital, the agency said.

AIP, who did not identify the Taleban official, claimed Bagram Airbase was in the Taleban's hands.

It said hundreds of Taleban fighters had been moved from Kabul to the north and reinforcements had also been rushed from the eastern garrison city of Jalalabad.

At least 200 Taleban fighters, riding on military trucks and other vehicles, were on their way to the fighting zone under the command of Jalalabad governor Maulavi Abdul Kabir, the agency, based in the bordering Pakistani city of Peshawar, said.

Anti-Taleban jets launched three bombing raids Sunday on the Afghan capital, Kabul, witnesses said.

The raids came after opposition forces took the Parwan Provincial capital of Charikar and a neighboring airbase, strategically placed just north of Kabul.

Witnesses said at least two bombs exploded close to the center of the city, but the intensity of ground fire made the thumping booms difficult to distinguish from the outgoing fire.

Anti-aircraft placements dotted

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Israeli, Palestinian Ministers Meet on Peace Process



AL-KHALIL, (March 19): Supporters of the Islamic group Hamas in Al-Khalil chanting anti-Zionist slogans in a show of strength in the West Bank town of Al-Khalil. The march, which stayed away from the Israeli-controlled fifth of the town, was organized to commemorate the birthday of Islam's Prophet Mohammed (S).

(AFP PHOTO)

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Palestinian International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath met Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy here Sunday to discuss how to resume peace negotiations broken off four months ago.

The two met at a large Bait-ul-Moqaddas hotel in the presence of the European envoy for the Middle East, Miguel Angel Moratinos.

"I came here at Moratinos's invitation to preare for the meeting in Brussels," said Shaath, who like Levy is to travel to the Belgian capital for a gathering of European Union (EU) foreign ministers.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Campaign Against Sectarian Terrorism to Be Intensified in Pakistan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A source close to the government of Pakistan announced that a new law intensifying the campaign against sectarian terrorism would be enforced next few days in Pakistan.

Majid Malek, a Pakistani Minister, said that according to the new law, the charges against arrested terrorists would be investigated by special courts and they would be tried at least within a period of one month.

The cabinet minister also underlined that the verdicts to be issued by the courts are irrevocable.

Although the Pakistan's National Assembly is currently closed, the Pakistani government has the right to implement necessary laws in the country for a period of three months without the assembly's approval.

The law will he enforced under the decree of President Farooq Ahmed Leghari.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif vowed Friday to wipe out sectarianism and terrorism, amid a wave of killings in the southern and central parts of the country.

N. Korean Media Lambasts U.S. in Runup to Four-Party Preliminary Talks

SEOUL — North Korea's leading party newspaper on Sunday lambasted the United States, blaming its troop presence in the Pacific for instability on the Korean peninsula.

"The main reason why the situation of the peninsula still remains unstable is that the United States, a belligerent, has sought to stifle the DPRK (North Korea) by force of arms, keeping huge aggression forces in South Korea and its vicinity," the *Rodong Sinmun* (Workers' Newspaper) said.

"The indefinite presence of U.S. troops in the Asia-Pacific region is aimed at invading the DPRK," the paper said in an editorial carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and monitored here.

"If they continue resorting to military adventures under the pretext of the 'instability', a war will be unavoidable in the peninsula," said the editorial which was carried as preparations were underway for four-party Korean peace talks in New York August

It was also aired as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn arrived in Pyongyang for a two-day trip, after which they are scheduled to visit Seoul.

When Carter last visited Pyongyang in 1994, he brokered a summit meeting between the North and the South which was aborted weeks later by the sudden death of then North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung, reportedly of a heart attack.

The four-party talks, involving the two Koreas, China and the United States, were proposed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam.

Their main purpose is to work out a permanent peace regime on the pensinsula, still officially at war after the 1950-53 Korean conflict was ended by a UN-supervised armistice.

The North, whose economy has crashed and whose people are now dependent on foreign aid for food, has insisted that any peace agreement must be signed with the United States, not with Seoul, an argument rejected by both Washington and Beijing.

(AFP)

Condition of World Muslim Minorities

LEGAL MEANS TO VINDICATE THEIR RIGHTS

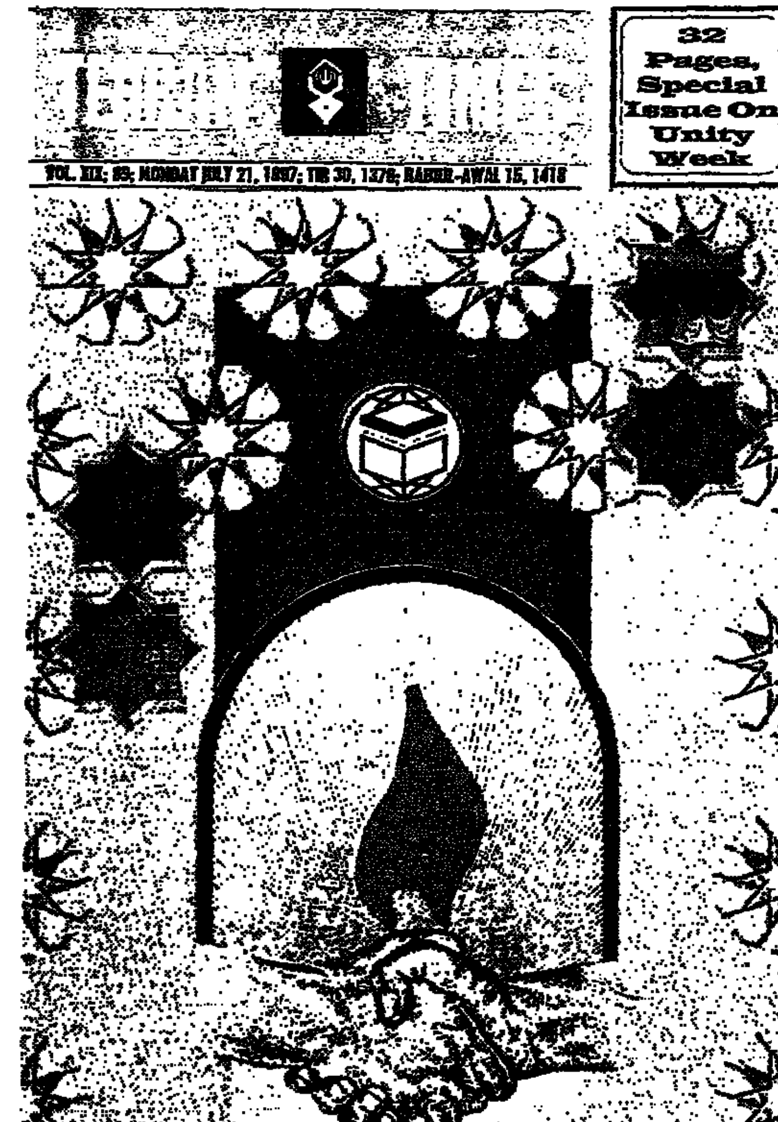
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — At a round table held by the *Tehran Times* on the occasion of the Unity Week (July 18-24), the Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, Mohammad-Javad Zarif, and the Secretary of the Legal Committee of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) and head of the Center of Strategic Studies (CSS), Hossein Mehrpour, elaborated on the present condition of Muslim minorities in the world and the feasible legal support that can be extended to them.

Zarif, giving a statistical analysis of the condition of the Muslims throughout the world, noted that most of the Muslims in the non-Islamic countries, particularly in the Western countries, are immigrants who have emigrated either from the colonies of those countries or from Islamic countries due to political, social, economic or cultural reasons. He defined the non-Islamic countries as those that are not members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

"The second group of Muslim minorities are racial or ethnic groups which have previously migrated to those countries in the course of the international conflicts and which have preserved their Islamic identity. In Europe, the Turkish minorities like those in Greece, the Balkans, Bulgaria and Central Europe fall into this category," he added.

(Contd on Pg. 15)



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In the Name of God

He it is Who made for you the night that you might rest in it, and the day giving light; most surely there are signs in it for a people who would hear.

(HOLY QORAN) (10:67)

OPINION

Conference on Unity: Forum for Converging Viewpoints

Today, the 10th International Conference on Islamic Unity will be inaugurated in Tehran with a speech delivered by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The conference, held every year during the Unity Week (Rabiul-Awal 12-17), convenes reformers and advocates of Islamic unity from round the globe and is a forum for discussing the major issues currently raised before the Muslim world.

So far, the conference has succeeded in making great strides towards removing misconceptions among different Islamic schools of thought and converging their viewpoints. The participants, to whatever Islamic branch they belong to, are free to discuss and defend their views on the topic of the conference from the standpoint of their own Islamic school of thought.

A review of the topics and discussions in the previous conferences reveals the yearning of the Muslim nations for the revival of unity among all Muslim nations throughout the world. The necessity for this unity, which is rooted in the beliefs of all Islamic branches, is more felt in view of the world's present political climate and the problems facing the Islamic countries.

Indeed, Islam is the standard-bearer for unity among all believers and worshippers of the Almighty God. The Holy Qoran has called the believers 'brethren' and has urged them to consolidate their brotherhood: "The believers are but brethren, therefore make peace between your brethren..." (49:10)

It has considered friendship and harmony as a gift bestowed by the Almighty God on the Muslims, which cannot be purchased even at the highest expense: "And united their hearts; had you spent all that is in the earth, you could not have united their hearts, but Allah united them;" (8:63)

The Holy Book has called on the followers of Prophet Mohammad (S) to be kind to each other: "...compassionate among themselves;" (48:29)

The Almighty God has made the forgiveness of the Muslims' sins conditional on their pardoning their fellow Muslims: "...and they should pardon and turn away. Do you not love that Allah should forgive you? And Allah is Forgiving, Merciful." (24:22)

Islam has asked its pious followers to refrain from backbiting (49:12), sarcasm (17:53), derisive and scornful remarks (49:11) so that friendship among them would not be damaged.

Given such precious guidelines, the valuable measures taken by the scholars and intellectuals from different Islamic schools of thought to boost Islamic unity are definitely positive steps in the direction of accomplishing Islamic objectives.

Moreover, tribute should also be paid to the devout personalities from all divine religions who have taken similar steps towards overcoming misunderstandings among the followers of these religions and bringing about proximity among them.

In fact, unity among the divine religions is one of the major goals of Islam and the Islamic leaders have always welcomed friendly ties with followers of other divine religions like Jews and Christians. That is because Islam has urged the followers of all these religions to abstain from taking provocative measures against one another (6:108). Instead, it has asked them to underscore their commonalities and avoid dominating each other:

"Say: O followers of the Book! come to an equitable proposition between us and you that we shall not serve any but Allah and (that) we shall not associate aught with Him, and (that) some of us shall not take others for lords besides Allah; but if they turn back, then say: Bear witness that we are Muslims." (3:64)

Islam has also called on its followers to hold constructive dialogues with followers of other divine religions in order to remove misunderstandings if there are any (29:46).

Above all, the Muslims believe that all the humans are descendants of a single couple, Adam and Eve, and thus, all are near kin (49:13).

That is why we offer our friendship to all people round the globe and call for peace, brotherhood and unity among all the pious and the righteous. We hope the response will get wider as the time goes on, until peace and love prevail in the world.

President's Message Submitted to Comoros Counterpart

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN — The message of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, inviting the President of Islamic Federal Republic of Comoros Muhammad Taqi Abdulkarimi to attend the 8th summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) scheduled to be held here in December 1997, was submitted to him.

The message was handed over by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati in a meeting in Moroni on Sunday.

Expressing readiness to attend Tehran summit, the president of Comoros said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a friend of his country. He also called for enhancement of relations with Iran.

Referring to the two countries' commonalties, the Iranian foreign minister said that the 8th OIC summit would be a good opportunity for Muslim states to review the issues pertaining the world of Islam and find solutions for the problems besetting the Muslim countries.

He also expressed Iran's readiness to expand Tehran-Moroni relations in all fields.

Velayati also held a separate meeting with Foreign Minister of Comoros Ashraf Said Hashem in Moroni on Sunday.

In the meeting, Hashem called for expansion of relations with Iran in areas of marine transportation, commerce, culture, agriculture and health services.

He also called for exchange of politico-commercial delegations between the two countries as well as seting up of an exhibition for displaying of Iranian made commodities in the Comoros.

The Iranian minister referred to existing facilities and capabilities of both countries and expressed Iran's willingness to expand bilateral relations and coordination with the Comoros in international affairs.

At the end of the meeting the two sides expressed interest in boosting bilateral cooperation as well as coordination in international issues.

3 Tons of Drugs Confiscated in Kerman

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Head of the Law Enforcement Forces of Kerman Colonel Mohammad Rouhi said that three tons of narcotics and a considerable amount of contrabands were confiscated in the southern Province of Kerman in the first quarter of the current year (March 21-June 21) by the Law Enforcement Forces.

According to IRNA, Rouhi said in Kerman on saturday that the drugs and contrabands, seized by forces under his command, were worth Rls.1.5 billion.

Moreover, Rouhi said the forces also managed to confiscate 110 stolen vehicles within the period.

Publisher of 'Sobh' Fined for Scandalous Reporting

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The branch 34 of Tehran courthouse Saturday found the publisher of the monthly *Sobh* (morning) guilty and fined him Rls.5 million for scandalous reporting about the Minister of Post, Telegraph and Telephon Mohammad Gharazi.

According to the court's ruling, publication of the monthly is to be suspended for a month. The ruling came in the wake of court action against the monthly by PTT minister.

The publisher of the monthly can appeal against the sentence within 20 days, an IRNA report said.

The court has, however, ruled out Gharazi's claim against the publisher of the daily for libel.

The jury has admitted the insulting nature of the monthly's report about the operations of the PTT Ministry but has also admitted the monthly's innocent intentions in its reporting and therefore considered the publisher of the monthly for a commutation of his sentence that might otherwise be harsher than the one declared in the ruling Saturday.

Persian Language Instructors Meet in Armenia

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Teachers and professors of Persian language held a meeting in Armenia on Saturday, IRNA reported.

Promotion of Persian language in the Republic of Armenia and compilation of new educational books for primary and high school levels were discussed and agreed upon in the meeting.

Hundreds of students are currently studying Persian language, as their second language, at 12 special schools throughout the republic.

SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER:

Rafsanjani Welcome to Visit Saudi Arabia Any Time

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Saudi Arabian Defense Minister Prince Sultan ibn Abdel Aziz said on Saturday that the Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was welcome to visit Saudi Arabia, in a new sign of improving ties between the two countries.

The Saudi prince made the remarks while speaking to journalists at the inauguration ceremony of a new missile test site at Al-Kharj, around 100 kilometers south of Riyadh.

Asked by journalists if President Rafsanjani was expected to visit, Prince Sultan said, "the kingdom is open to all visitors and above all our brother, Mr. Rafsanjani, who is welcome any time."

An informed source at Iran's Foreign Ministry has told the *Tehran Times* that President Rafsanjani has accepted an invitation by the Saudi King Fahd to pay a visit to Saudi Arabia. However the sources did not give a precise date for the visit.

In reply to our reporter's question about the date of president's visit with regard to the short time left till the end of his term, the source said that the Saudi officials know that "Rafsanjani is Rafsanjani," even if he is not the president at the time of the visit.

Saudi Arabians and Iranian officials have voiced increasing desire to improve relations.

In a move to strengthen Tehran-Riyadh relations, Advisor to King Fahd paid a visit to Tehran on Tuesday, July 1, conveying messages from the Saudi King Fahd and the crown prince to President Rafsanjani.

In a meeting with President Rafsanjani the Saudi King's envoy expressed hope that holding such meetings would pave the way for resolving the problems facing Islamic countries.

He also reiterated that his country attaches great importance to the 8th summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held here in December, stressing that a high-level Saudi delegation would take part in the summit.

In the meeting, the two sides expressed satisfaction over the expansion of bilateral relations.

Iran, China to Strengthen Cultural Relations

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Chinese Deputy Minister for Culture Liyuan Chao announced in Beijing on Sunday that China is to hold its first cultural week in Tehran next year.

In a meeting with the Deputy Head of the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization, Ali Jannati, the Chinese minister said that the holding of the cultural week in Tehran would be effective in promoting Sino-Iranian cultural ties.

He expressed satisfaction over the growing cultural ties between the two countries in the recent years and added that Iran would participate actively in the Beijing International Arts Exhibition next month and this is very important for China.

Ali Jannati expressed pleasure over the expansion of cultural cooperation between Iran and China and said it is expected that during the forthcoming visit to Iran of the Chinese Minister of Culture, Liu Zhongde, cultural agreements between the two countries would be finalized.

Iran's first cultural week which opened in Beijing on Friday, is being held in the Workers' Cultural Palace in the vicinity of Beijing's Forbidden City. The works of Iranian artists are on public display at the exhibition.

Iran Ranks Third in Int'l Physics Olympiad

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian national physics olympiad team, ranking third at the World 28th Physics Olympiad, won one gold, three silver and one bronze medals.

According to IRNA, Iranian student Mehdi Anwari ranked first at the competitions by scoring 29.75 out of the total 30 points in theoretical test and 17.5 out of the total 20 points at the practical test. A total of 266 students from 56 countries had taken part at the olympiad, held in Sudbury, Canada, from July 15-17.

The gold winner was Anwari, while Farzad Parvaresh, Mehdi Fazeli and Reza Salem won silver medals. Mehdi Sediqi bagged the bronze medal.

The Iranian team stood third after Russia and China by scoring 194.25 out of 250 points.

Experts: Iranian Women, Men Enjoy Equal Rights

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The latest statistics released by Iran's Employment and Administration Office said that some 631,892 out of a total of 2,160,723 Iranian government employees are women.

Based on the statistics, 453,797 (46 percent) out of a total of 995,078 employees at Education Ministry and 95,935 (42 percent) out of 226,218 employees at Health Ministry are women. However, in other ministries female employees make up just 10 percent of total employees.

Director General of Planning and Manpower Training Department at Iran's Employment and Administration Office, Mehdi Eshraqi, said in an interview with IRNA here on Saturday that men and women were potentially capable of having equal share in all types of activities in the country. Eshraqi said that however there were certain job opportunities suitable only to men or merely to women.

He saw the parameter of culture as the reason behind women's high ratio of engagement in the education and health sectors, saying that women would be active in political, economic and specialized activities as well by the coming years, when there would be reduction in birth rate and low demand for employment at the education sector.

Meanwhile, an expert at the Planning and Manpower Training Department Mahin Fotourehchi told IRNA that women's and men's equal share in social activities irrespective of their sex but based on their expertise, knowledge and competency was a must for attaining further productivity in the developing so-

(Contd on Pg. 14)

هكذا من الأصل

Cabinet Members Expected to Be Independent

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — In the span of time between the seventh presidential election up to these days, when we are getting close to the formation of the new government, to be led by president-elect Hojjatoleslam Seyed Mohammad Khatami, different views have been presented on the mechanism for selection of the cabinet members.

On the threshold of the formation of Mr. Khatami's cabinet, discussion about the members of the cabinet is among the hot issues in the Iranian press.

In its editorial yesterday, the morning daily *Jomhouri-e Eslami* referred to the divine nature of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic and said this nature requires the president not to be indebted to any group.

If the ousted president of Iran, Abulhassan Banisadr, could not remain and fled the country, it was precisely because he was dependent and indebted to certain groups.

Except Banisadr, the other presidents of Iran were independent, feeling no debt to any group or political stream.

This independent feature which is also observable in the president-elect Dr. Khatami is a divine gift for running the country's affairs.

The president-elect is not indebted to any individual, group or political stream; he is only obliged to God and the great 60 million population of Iran, the daily felt confident.

Jomhouri-e Eslami goes on writing that Khatami is not obligated to preserve share for any political wing and will accordingly determine the combination of its cabinet ministers.

He has free hand to select his colleagues by relying on principles and does not budge an inch in preserving the principles.

Other morning daily, *Iran*, in its editorial yesterday said that certain viewpoints of the country's political wings reveal that they try to place the commitment to people's demands, civil objectives and reforms against the ideals and values. The daily went on saying that this is not surprising but regrettable.

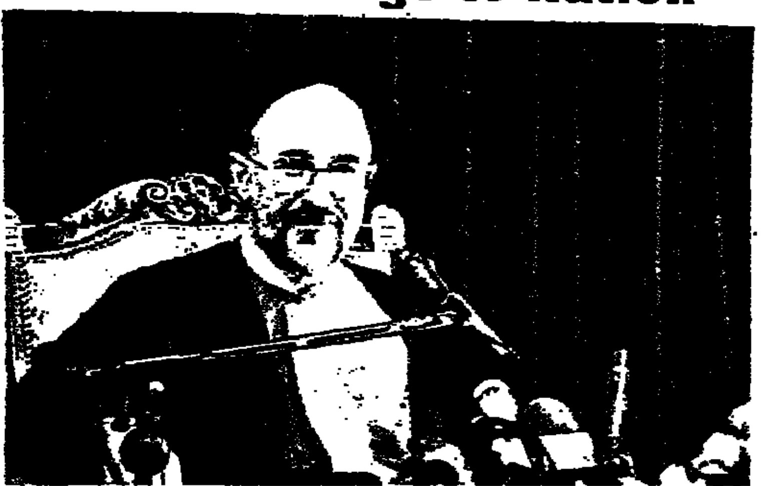
The public opinion inspired from the ideals of the revolution does not so much accept factionalism and is not compatible with rabble-rousing and aggrandizement.

Iran's commentary says that the new government does not have to grapple with many of the hurdles existed during President Hashemi Rafsanjani's office in order to cross the crises and provide the ground for councils and political parties.

Today, people are impatiently waiting for the fulfillment of the promises given by the president-elect and seek structural improvements and giving way to the most competent and the cultured persons in the government machinery.

Accepting responsibility, tolerating criticism, spreading expert theory and distribution of power among various layers of the society are among other things which the nation wants to be heeded during Khatami's tenure.

President-Elect Delivers His First Message to Nation



TEHRAN — President-elect Hojjatoleslam Seyed Mohammad Khatami said in his first message to the nation Saturday night that since his election to presidency on May 23rd he has been concentrating on the present state of affairs of Iran and on how best to form his Cabinet.

He said in the meanwhile he had consulted experts and professionals with a view to forming a Cabinet with original outlooks and novel approaches towards the various issues of the nation and capable of ensuring full-scale national development with social justice and independence.

President-elect Khatami said that the creation of a well-developed, independent and free nation would need the effort of every citizen together with solidarity and national determination.

He said the religious identity of the Muslim people of Iran and the Islamic revolution should work as the basic ingredient for an identical national feeling and for a national resolution for building the nation, for defending values and for protecting the Islamic Revolution and independence.

President-elect Khatami also added that he feels proud of being given the opportunity to serve the nation. He added the people should respect the verdict of the majority who have elected him and on their own part make an effort for helping the nation march faster towards a better future. *(IRNA)*

Ayatollah Bahaoddini Buried in Qom

Tehran Times Service

QOM — The body of deceased Ayatollah Bahaoddini was buried in the holy city of Qom Sunday with a large number of people and senior clergymen attending the funeral service, IRNA reported.

The Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Majlis Speaker: Leader's Guidelines Should Be Followed Up Seriously

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Hojjatoleslam Akbar Nateq Nouri called for serious and practical following up of the recent guidelines of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei on preventing the emergence of a new affluent class in society.

The speaker made the statement in his address at the open session of the Majlis yesterday. He congratulated the birthday anniversary of the Holy Prophet of Islam and the Unity Week and called for solidarity of Islamic countries in order to thwart the plots hatched by global imperialism and international Zionism against Islam and Muslims.

Nateq Nouri condemned the insult to the sanctities of Islam and Christianity by the Zionist entity and called on Muslims and Christians to defend Prophet Mohammad (SAW) and Jesus Christ (AS).

He said the resolution issued by the UN in condemnation of the Zionists has no color and added that invited the enlightened Muslim ulema and writers to throw light on the various aspects of the Zionists' crimes and goals.

MJF-Affiliated Co. Earns $5.2m Through Exports

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A company affiliated to Mostazafan and Janbazan Foundation (MJF) exported $5.2 million worth of goods to Central Asian republics and France last year (March 20, 1996-March 20, 1997), IRNA reported.

Managing director of the company Mohammad-Baqer Soleymani said here on Sunday that the volume of the company's products last year reached 17,500 tons.

Soleymani said there was a 26 percent growth in the company's exports last year, which the figure is expected to amount to between $6-7 million.

He said that between 60 percent and 65 percent of the company's needs for raw materials were met domestically.

He added that studies were underway by the company to establish a melamine producing plant in Central Asia. (IRNA)

Majlis Decides to Praise President Rafsanjani

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The Majlis Steering Board called for ceremonies to be held at the Majlis on Tuesday in honor of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

The ceremonies will be attended by the heads of the three powers, a number of senior officials as well as ambassadors and foreign newsmen.

President Opens Rehabilitation Center

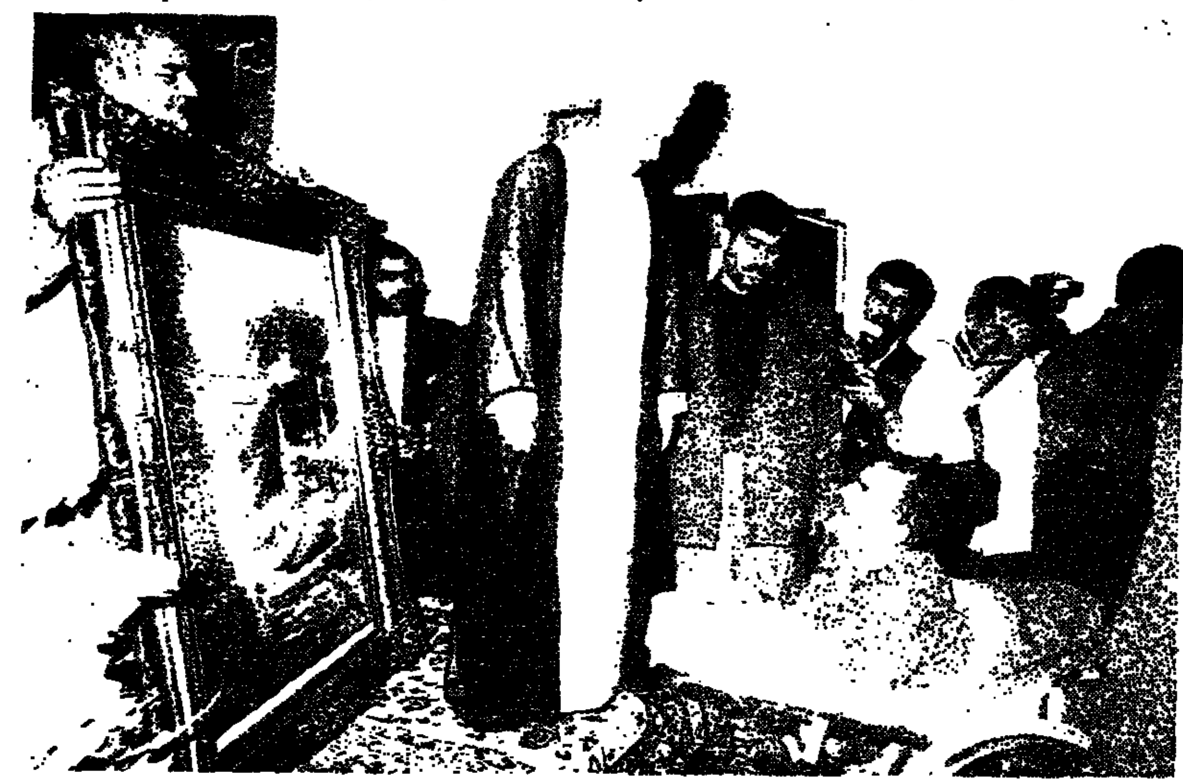
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Sunday inaugurated Asma'a Educational, Research and Rehabilitation Center for Children in Tehran.

Built on a plot of land covering 2,788 sq. meters, the center is to offer services to 500 physically and mentally handicapped patients.

At present seven to ten children per thousand are suffering from speech disability, seven in thousand of hearing problems and two to four in thousand of cerebral palsy, IRNA said.

Over 80 physicians and therapists are working at the center after being trained in Britain, Germany and Hungary.



TEHRAN -- President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani (C) talks to a disabled here yesterday at Asma'a Rehabilitation Center.

1,300 Tons of Dimension Stones Exported

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - 1,300 tons of dimension stones were exported from Kurdestan province, western Iran, said the Director General of Mines and Metals Department for Kurdestan Province, Abdolfatah Hesamy, in Sanandaj, Kurdestan Province Saturday.

Hesamy said that the exports, equivalant to $290,000, included marble and were exported to Italy, Japan and Persian Gulf states, IRNA reported.

He added that in the first quarter of the current Iranian year 1376 (started March 21, 1997), 130,000 tons of dimension stones were mined, registering a 13 percent increase compared to the corresponding period in the previous year.

Annually 500,000 tons of dimension stones are mined from the province, he added.

Consumer Price Index Up by 0.5% in 1 Month

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The consumer price index of the country's urban regions rose by 0.5 percent during the Iranian month of Khordad (May 22-June 21, 1997) compared to the preceding month.

The Economic Statistics Department of the Central Bank of Iran reported that the figure shows an increase of 18.8 percent compared to the corresponding period last year, IRNA reported.

The report added that inflation rate in the first quarter of the current year reached 17.1 percent, showing a slight increase compared to the preceding year.

The increase in price index is due to rise in prices of housing, fuel and electricity by 1.5 percent, medication and health care by 2.9 percent and garments by 1.3 percent.

The price index which had an upward trend from July 1995 through March 1996, dropped in April and May 1996 but gradually rose in the following months, reaching 524.1 from May 22 to June 21, 1997.

The price index for garments rose by 1.3 percent, housing, fuel and electricity by 1.5 percent, furniture and household appliances by 0.2 percent, transportation and communications 0.9 percent, health services 2.9 percent and other services 0.2 percent.

However, the price indexes for foodstuff, beverages and tobacco declined by 0.6 percent and of recreation and education by 0.3 percent.



Warsaw Mayor Calls for Iran-Poland City Cooperation

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - [illegible] expansion of [illegible] Iran in inner-city [illegible] metro, traffic control [illegible] bishment, and Warsaw [illegible] Ancai Swiecicki [illegible] Iranian Ambassador [illegible] Mohammad Taheri [illegible].

Taheri also [illegible] expand Iran-Poland [illegible] that a visit by the Warsaw Mayor to Tehran would be fruitful for continuation of cooperation between the two countries.

Swiecicki expressed desire to visit Iranian cities, especially the ancient and beautiful city of Isfahan and the Iranian capital, IRNA reported.

Iran, Kazakhstan to Set Up Joint Road Transport Company

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran and Kazakhstan have agreed to set up a joint road transport company in order to expand bilateral cooperation in overland transportation.

The agreement was reached in a meeting Saturday between the Kazakh Transport and Communication Minister Yuri Lavareniko and the Head of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Disabled of the Islamic Revolution (Bonyad-e Mosta'azafan and Janbazan) of Iran, Mohsen Rafiqdoost in Akmola, the future capital of Kazakhstan, IRNA reported.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications of Kazakhstan moved to Akmola in spring this year in accordance with the plan for the transfer of ministries.

According to the agreement reached between the two sides, the Transportation Organization of Bonyad-e Mostaz'afan and the Kazakh Ministry of Transport will prepare plans for the formation of a joint transportation company between Iran and Kazakhstan.

Rafiqdoost who arrived in Akmola Saturday, also called on officials of the Kazakh Ministry of Agriculture.

Average Annual Investment Rate in Industry Sector Stands at 19%

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Average annual investment growth rate in industry sector over the past 8 years rose to 19 percent, Industries Minister Mohammad Reza Nemat-Zadeh said here Sunday.

Speaking to the reporters, he said that it is at the time when the average growth rate of investment in the national economy over the said period stood at 11 percent.

He added that the annual growth rate of the value-added in industry sector in the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan stood an at average of 14 percent and it is predicted to rise to 5.9 percent in the Second Five-Year Economic Development Plan.

The growth rate of the industry sector over the past 8 years amounted to 8 percent, two percent more than the growth rate in national economy of the country, the minister stated.

According to Nemat-Zadeh the share of the industrial goods from the total non-oil exports of the country increased from 12 percent at the beginning of the First Five-Year Economic Development Plan to 50 percent last year and expected to continue its surging trend in future.

The share of industrial goods from the country's total exports increased to 9 percent at present from 2 percent at the beginning of the First 5-Year Economic Development Plan, he stated.

Over 900,000 Tons of Goods Transited

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - 938,348 Tons of various foreign-made goods, worth Rls.1,716 billion, were transited through Iranian customs in the first quarter of the current year (March 21- July 21).

The goods included 110,448 tons of foodstuff, 367,653 tons of fuel, 460,247 tons of miscellaneous goods and 7,455 cars.

IRNA said that the major part of the transit goods had been handled through customs in northern Iran.

Russia for Expansion of Oil Cooperation With Iran

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Russian First Deputy Minister of Fuel and Energy Sergei Kiriyenko in a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Mehdi Safari said the Russian government was ready to expand its cooperation with Tehran in the areas of oil, gas and energy.

Kiriyenko said that Moscow still supported full implementation of the agreements reached between the two countries on formation of a joint company and exploration of oil in the Caspian Sea, IRNA reported.

He invited Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh to pay an official visit to Russia for conclusion of a memorandum of understanding on mutual oil cooperation.

Safari said for his part that Iran is ready to contribute to exploration and exploitation of oil in the Caspian Sea and the Persian Gulf within the framework of bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation.

He called for finalizing of a memorandum of understanding on cooperation between Iran and Russia in the area of oil.

5 Production, Industrial Centers Operational in Yasouj

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Five production and industrial centers were put into operation in Yasouj Saturday in the presence of Industries Minister Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh.

The units, active in production of polyethylene pipes, plastic bags and food containers, cookies and biscuits were established at a cost of Rls.30 billion, IRNA reported.

The units were supplied with necessary equipment at a cost of $6,238,000.

Moreover, the minister inaugurated construction works of three other projects, which are to be implemented at a cost of more than Rls.20 billion plus DM859,300 on Saturday in Yasouj, the Kohkeloyeh and Boyer Ahmad Province.

The minister also inspected construction work of a cement plant in Yasouj. Rls.40 billion and $15 million are to be spent on establishment of the firm, which, once operational, is expected to produce 700 tons of cement.

India Asks EC to Resolve Anti-Dumping Issue

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - India has asked the European Commission (EC) to resolve the anti-dumping issue relating to exports of unbleached cotton grey fabrics through mutual talks and not by taking recourse to anti-dumping procedures.

Talking to newsmen in New Delhi Thursday, Commerce Minister B.B. Ramaiah said "we have already told the European Union (EU) that there is no point in starting the investigations again. We may be able to discuss and thrash the issue out", IRNA reported.

The minister's statement assumes significance in the light of the EC initiating fresh investigations on July 11 on charges of dumping of unbleached cotton fabrics (UCF) by India and five other countries after the EU had earlier rejected a move by the EC to make provisional duty on UCF "definitive".

The EU had rejected the provisional duty by nine votes to six at its sitting in Brussels during May. Following this, the Eurocotton, a European union body for textiles sector, had filed a fresh complaint, which has been admitted by the EC and referred for investigations.

Ramaiah's statement is also in line with a decision taken at the first inter-ministerial coordination committee regarding disputes between India and its trading partners in the textiles sector on July 9.

The EC has been conducting anti-dumping investigations into unbleached cotton grey fabric almost continuously since February 1994. so far, it has been unable to get duties enforced.

India exports nearly $195 million of unbleaced cotton grey fabrics to the EC. The other countries on whose exports a duty was slapped were China, Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia and Egypt.

542,285 Tons of Minerals Quarried From Mines in Kurdestan

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - A total of 542,285 tons of minerals were extracted from mines in western province of Kurdestan duirng first quarter of the year (March 21-June 21), said director general of provincial mines and metals office Abdolfattah Hesami.

Hesami said that the total value of the extracted minerals within the period stood at Rls.12.198 billion, IRNA reported.

He added that extraction of the minerals showed a rise of 2.4 percent within the period compared to the figure registered within the corresponding period over the preceding year.

He remarked that 529,285 tons of minerals had been quarried from provincial mines between March 21 and June 21 last year.

Indian Navy to Manufacture Air Defense Ship

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - The Indian Navy will "shortly" start manufacturing its own air defense ship (ADS), a smaller version of an aircraft carrier, to replace decommissioned "Ins Vikrant", the Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Sushil Kumar said in New Delhi yesterday.

While talking to newsmen, Kumar said "we are confident that government will soon sanction the funds required to build an ADS as part of its long-term policy of indigenisation", IRNA reported.

He said the design for a 24,000-ton vessel is already made.

Proposed to be built at a cost of $485 million, it will be capable of carrying a mix of fighters, including the vertical take-off and landing sea harrier jets, anti-submarine helicopters and a combination of missiles.

If things go right, the indigenous ADS would be ready for operations in the next ten years. It was proposed to be built at the Cochin Dockyard in southern Indian state of Kerala, he said.

Caspian Sea Contains 95% of World's Caviar

Tehran Times Service

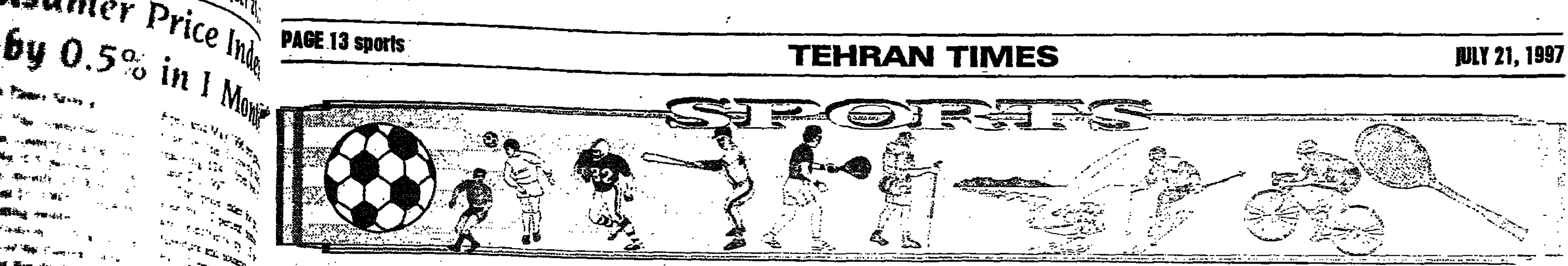
TEHRAN - Director General of Fisheries Office for provincial cities of Gorgan and Gonbad Hossein Rostami said on Saturday that about 95 percent of world's caviar were caught from the Caspian Sea.

Rostami said that more than 16 million beluga roes are poured into the Caspian Sea annually in order to protect sturgeons, IRNA reported.

About 720 tons of sturgeons and more than 114 tons of caviar are yearly obtained from waters near two Caspian littoral provinces in northern Iran.



هكذا من الأصل



Sports Summary

TENNIS

Back Spasms Oust Seles From NJ Match

MAHWAH, N.J.: Monica Seles, suffering from back spasms through most of the match, quit in the second set of the semifinals of the A&P Women's Tennis Classic, allowing Chandra Rubin to advance to the finals.

Rubin, ranked 29, won 3-6 3-2 and will play 16-year-old Anna Kournikova of Russia in the championship match. Kournikova, who reached the semifinals at Wimbledon before losing to Martina Hingis, beat Maggie Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-4 6-1 on Saturday.

Chang, Korda Reach Showdown

WASHINGTON: Top-seeds Michael Chang of the U.S. and Petr Korda of the Czech Republic will meet in the final of the $675,000 ATP Washington Classic here Sunday.

In the semi-finals Korda beat David Wheaton of the U.S. 6-2, 6-3 which Chang defeated Brett Steven of New Zealand 6-2, 7-6 (7/4).

Testud Faces Makarova

PALERMO, Italy: France's second seed Sandrine Testud will play Elena Makarova of Russia in the final of the WTA tournament here on Sunday. Testud defeated Austrian Barbara Schett 0-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/3) while Makariva put out top-seeded Barbara Paulus, also of Austria 6-4, 7-5.

'Last Man' Portas and Kucera go Through

STUTTGART, Germany: Spain's Albert Portas, who was the last automatic qualifier for the tournament, and Karol Kucera of Slavakia reached the semi-finals of the rain-disrupted one million dollar Mercedes Cup tournament here Saturday.

Portas posted a quick 5-2, 6-4 win over compatriot Felix Mantilla while Kucera put out Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

In the two quarter-finals completed on Friday, third-seeded Spaniard Corretja beat compatriot Alberta Berasategui 6-4, 6-4 while Costa achieved the same scoreline to knock out 1996 finalist Yevgeny Kafellnikov of Russia.

CRICKET

Gatting Puts Warne to the Sword

LONDON: Australia's bowlers were made to struggle as Middlesex's former England captain Mike Gatting exacted some revenge on Shane Warne at Lord's on Saturday. But the 40-year-old Gatting, who captained England to their last ashes success in 1986/87 and is now an England selector, fell 15 agonizing runs short of a 93rd first class hundred.

CYCLING

Pantani Puts Up Swashbuckling Performance

ALPE D'HUEZ, France: Italian cyclist Marco Pantani, nicknamed 'the Pirate', won the 13th stage of the Tour de France here on Saturday — winning the dreaded Alpe d'Huez stage for the second time.

The 27-year-old Pantani, who missed the 1996 tour because he was recovering from a double fracture of the leg, beat yellow jersey-wearer Jan Ullrich by 46 seconds with Frenchman Richard virenque trailing in third a minute and 26 seconds behind.

Ullrich extended his overall lead to 6mins 22 secs over Virenque while Pantani is third at 8mins 24 secs.



JOUNIEH, Lebanon (July 18): Tunisia's Salim Arabi (L) and Syria's Mohammad Zakour fight, in Jounieh, during their Pan-Arab Games' 95kg category fight. Arabi won the gold medal. (AFP PHOTO)

Spanish Clubs Most Expensive Signings

Compiled From Dispatches

MADRID — The 10 most expensive signings made by Spanish clubs since the end of last season following move of Roberto Rios to athletic Bilbao:

Juninho - Middlesbrough to Atletico Madrid $19.5 Million

Christian Vieri - Juventus to Atletico Madrid $17.5 Million

Roberto Rios - Real Betis to Athletic Bilbao $13.5 Million

Djalminha - Palmeiras to Deportivo $10.0 Million

Jordi Lardin - Espanyol to Atletico Madrid $7.6 Million Marcelinho Carioca - Corinthians to Valencia $7.5 Million

Liverio 'oli' Alvarez - Oviedo To Real Betis $7.3 Million

Fernando Morientes - Real Zaragoza to Real Madrid $6.6 Million Roy Makaay - Vitesse Arnhem to Tenerife $6.6 Million

Palhinha - Cruzeiro to Real Mallorca $6.6 Million

Meanwhile, result of the exhibition match played in Hong Kong Sunday was reported as follows:

South China 0 Manchester United 1 (Jordi Cruyff 76).

Leblanc Withdraws From Tour

BOURG D'OISANS, France — French star Luc Leblanc pulled out of the Tour de France before the start of Sunday's 14th stage to Courchevel.

"I have injuries and I am not able to compete at my normal level," Leblanc said. "I'm not content to ride and perform 15 or 20 minutes less than my best."

The former world champion was in 98th place after the 13th stage, more than an hour behind leader Jan Ullrich of Germany.

Leblanc has been plagued by knee and leg injuries throughout his career, a result of his legs being of different lengths, and was also forced to withdraw from the Tour of Italy — which he had nominated as his major target this year.

Leblanc has been suffering from circulation problems, causing pain in his legs and side, since Monday stage, when he finished more than 33 minutes off the pace.

Polti team rider Leblanc went into the tour regarded as one of the few French riders thought capable of becoming the first home rider to win the tour since Bernard Hinault in 1985.

He wore the yellow jersey in 1991 when he finished fifth and also was 4th in 1994 and 6th last year — winning a stage both times.

(AFP)

BUDAPEST, Hungary (July 19): German striker Herzog (R) of Werder Bremen fights for the ball with his Hungarian opponent Imre Aranyos of SC Vasas, in Budapest, during their UEFA Intertoto cup match. The first half result was 1-0 for Hungarians. (AFP PHOTO)

Hungarian First Division Results

BUDAPEST — Results of matches played in the first round of the Hungarian first division championship on Saturday.

Siofok	0	Ferencvaros	1
Szombathely	2	Vac	1
Ujpest	3	Tiszakecske	0
Gyor	2	Zalaegerszeg	1
Mtk Budapest	3	Videoton	1

Played on Friday:

BVSC Budapest	2	Debrecen	1

Playing Sunday:
Diosgyor v Kispest honved

Playing Tuesday:
Stadler v Vasas Budapest

Playing Monday:
Gazszer v Bekescsaba

(Reuter)



BEIRUT, Lebanon (July 19): Egyptian weight lifter Khaled al-Karni holds up 185 kgs to win the gold medal in the 99 kgs competition at the Pan-Arab Games in Beirut. (AFP PHOTO)

Pedaling Around the World

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Two Mexican cyclists Alejandro Gonzalez Lopez and Enrique Chagoya de la Pefia haveundertaken the enormous tour named "Around the World for Life." The purpose of this project is to travel 60,000 km on bicycle around the Globe, crossing more than 50 countries, carrying a message of respect to the diverse cultures of the different countries, as well as the promotion of the sport as an instrument to improve the quality of life.

The Mexican cyclist started their tour April 5,97, from Mexicali, Mexico.

The planned date to arrive to the Islamic Republic of Iran is August 19 to Zahedan, from there, they will travel 312 km to Bam and from there to 211 km Bandarabas.

Iran's Deaf Wrestling Team Ranks First in the World

COPENHAGEN — Iranian wrestling team in the final stage of the Olympic wrestling contests for the deaf and hard of hearing stood at the first place among 13 countries here on saturday.

Iran's team with five gold, two silver and one bronze medals and 76 points was the leading team followed by Turkish and Russian teams standing at second and third places respectively.

(IRNA)

Iran's National Tae Kwon Do Team Ranks First in Int'l Contests

TEHRAN — Iran's National Team ranked first at an international Tae Kwon Do competitions held in Hanoi from July 16-19.

The Iranian team bagged three gold and two bronze medals.

Vietnam and South Korea stood after Iran, taking the second and third places respectively.

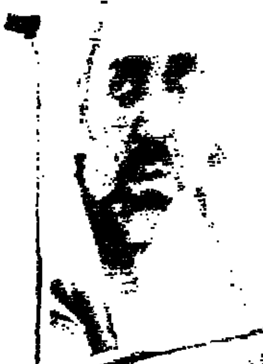
(IRNA)

One-Legged British Marathon Runner Completes Cross-Australia Run

SYDNEY — A British runner who lost an arm and a leg to a land mine two years ago has completed a 200-km (124-mile) run from Bathurst to Sydney to raise money for fellow victims of the deadly weapons.

Chris Moon, running with one artificial leg, crossed the finish line at an army barracks in inner-city Sydney dead on schedule with dozens of supporters cheering him home.

(AFP)



Plavsic Kicked Out of Ruling Bosnian Serb Party

BELGRADE — Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic has been thrown out of ruling Serb Democratic Party (SDS) by its hardline leadership, with whom she has been been locked in a bitter power struggle, the SRNA agency announced Sunday.

Plavsic's expulsion was voted by 66 members of the party's 84-strong leadership committee, which met overnight in Pale, the administrative center of the Republika Srpska (RS), the Bosnian Serb entity.

The committee "reiterated its call for Mrs Plavsic to resign from her post as president of the RS and to transfer her powers to Vice-President Dragoljub Mirjanic," a statement said.

"The leadership committee has looked at Mrs Plavsic's position concerning the policy and program of the party," the statement added.

"Sixty-six of the 84 members of the leadership committee were present at the meeting. The 66 voted unanimously for the expulsion of Mrs Plavsic from the SDS."

Plavsic has clashed with Serb hardliners since trying to sack the Bosnian Serb interior minister earlier this month whom she accused of corruption.

Her opponents are also angered by her apparent willingness to implement the 1995 Dayton peace accords which ended Bosnia's 43-month war and thwarted the Bosnian Serb goal of dividing the state into ethnically pure areas.

Plavsic said in an interview to be published in the German magazine *Der Spiegel* on Monday that she plans to have former Serb leader Radovan Karadzic arrested on charges of embezzlement. She will not however hand him over to the UN war crimes tribunal, she said.

The president of the Serb-run part of Bosnia told the magazine that "Karadzic and his friends" were responsible for massive corruption and profiteering throughout the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Plavsic said her one-time political ally was providing "political protection" to "dozens of companies" who do not declare duties on goods coming in from neighboring countries - principally Serbia.

(AFP)

Zionist Spy Trial in Egypt Postponed by Illness

CAIRO — The trial of an Israeli citizen accused of spying for his country in Egypt was delayed until August 17 after his lawyer suffered heart problems, the president of the high state security court said Sunday.

After Saturday's hearing in which Farid al-Dib began a speech on behalf of the defendant, Azzam Azzam, the defense lawyer experienced "a heart problem," co-defense lawyer Khaled Mohammed said.

The chairman of the judges, Moharram Darwish, agreed to the lawyers' request for a delay but said "it was the last time that he would do it."

Prosecutor Hisham Badawi accused Dib of using "delaying tactics to prevent the court from rendering a verdict."

"This is why, since the beginning of the trial April 24, the defense has asked several times and on various pretexts, for the trial to be postponed," he said.

In arguments Saturday, Dib charged that Egyptian officials "staged the (espionage) affair then used the Egyptian media campaign hostile to Azzam Azzam to halt normalization with Israel after Benjamin Netanyahu came to power."

Dib also said that the Israeli Druze community, of which Azzam is a member, "are incapable of indulging in espionage against Egypt because over the centuries, they supported the Arabs against their enemies."

(AFP)

Iran Joins Int'l Convention on Oil Pollution

TEHRAN — Iranian Majlis here on Sunday sanctioned a law on the Islamic Republic of Iran's membership to the International Convention for the Campaign Against Oil Pollution.

Islamic Iran is expected to cooperate closely with other members of the international convention to reduce the possibility of pollution in oil sector.

(IRNA)

Saudi Minister in Yemen for Border Talks

SANAA — Yemeni President Ali Abdallah Saleh on Saturday received Saudi Interior Minister Nayef ibn Abdel Aziz, here on his second visit in a month to try to resolve border problems poisoning bilateral relations.

Prince Nayef gave Saleh a message from Saudi King Fahd on the border question and "ways of arriving at an equitable and satisfactory solution," a Yemeni official said.

The two men also discussed "matters of mutual interest, ways of strengthening bilateral relations and Palestinian developments in light of the obstinate Israeli position on the peace process," the official said.

A Yemeni official was quoted earlier by the official news agency Saba as saying he hoped the prince's visit "results in a quick and definitive settlement of the joint border problem which is acceptable to both sides and strengthens stability in the area."

The two countries signed an agreement in 1995 under which Yemen gave up its claims to the three border provinces of Najran, Assir and Jizan, yielded to its neighbor in 1934.

Yemen and Saudi Arabia then committed themselves to normalizing relations, which deteriorated during the 1990-1991•

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

HUNDREDS...

around the city sent a barrage of exploding canon shells and heavy and light machine gunfire as at least one jet roared overhead.

Civilians in fear of bombs and ground fire remained in their homes for the duration of the attack.

Several Taleban fighters were seen firing Kalashnikov rounds and shoulder-held rocket propelled grenades at the sky, apparently in frustration at the continuing attacks.

(Contd From Pg. 3)

SAUDI...

The new site also contains the kingdom's first center for the control and maintenance of ammunition.

Prince Sultan said the new center meant Saudi Arabia no longer had to send its military equipment abroad for upkeep "which will save time and money."

The defense minister also inspected the air base at Al-Kharj and laid the first stone of a new housing complex to be built there at a cost of two billion dollars.

The base will be the biggest in the kingdom once the complex is completed in five years, he said.

American, French and British airmen patrolling an air exclusion zone over southern Iraq moved to Al-Kharj base for greater security after a massive truck bombing of a base near the eastern city of Dhahran in June 1996 that left 19 U.S. airmen dead.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ISRAELI...

He is expected to meet Levy again on the sidelines of the EU meeting Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Palestinians broke off negotiations with Israel in mid-March after it began work on a new Jewish housing project on the edge of disputed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

The EU invited Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to come to Brussels for talks with Levy, but Arafat has not yet responded to the invitation.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 3)

AYATOLLAH...

Khamenei's representative Hojjatoleslam Mohammadi Golpayegani, President Rafsanjani's envoy, members of the Instructors' Society of Qom Theological School, several members of the Assembly of Experts and of Majlis as well as a number of political and military officials were present at the ceremony.

During the 1980-88 Iraqi imposed war, Ayatollah Bahaoddini had gone to various battlefronts several times to boost the morale of Iranian combatants, despite his old age.

(Contd From Pg. 1)

MPS...

In a strongly-worded letter, the MPs warned that they would raise the issue at the formal session of the Majlis if the interior minister's explanation would not convince them.

According to the constitution the interior minister is responsible for internal security of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(IRNA)

(Contd From Pg. 2)

EXPERTS...

cieties.

She said that many posts had been offered to women in Iran over recent decades based on their expertise, interest and compatibility. However, one should see the key to women's success in strengthening their self-confidence, she added.

Director general of Women's Affairs Department at Interior Ministry Tahereh Mousavi Seresht said for her part that in spite of certain restrictions, women had been more successful than men in many fields over recent years due to their patience and assumed a vital role in country's administrative and executive systems.

Director General of Planning Department at Tehran's Governorate Hadi Ma'soumi told IRNA that thanks to certain scenes of competition set open for women with respect to their high inclination towards education, they managed to take positive steps in regaining their real status after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Meanwhile, an education expert at Tehran's Governorate Maryan Sharif Azadeh said that certain officials and people did not still believe in women's involvement in certain social activities.

Sharif Azadeh, who had once been governor of Zabol, Sistan-Baluchestan Province, called on women to intensify their efforts in order to prove their competency in handling certain jobs, which seemed to be tough and solely being done by men and on officials in charge of planning to pave the ground for women's social acceptability.

(Contd from Pg.12)

MOSCOW...

formerly the massive Rossiya Movie Theater.

Jacqueline bisset, Catherine Deneuve, Brigitte Nielsen and Albert Brooks are also expected to make appearances at the 20th festival, which has stirred controversy for its 30-billion-ruble ($6 million) tab at a time of continuing economic crisis. The Moscow city government is footing most of the bill.

Festival officials dismiss such criticism, saying it's no reason to abandon cultural funding or give up on something that could boost the struggling Russian film industry.

"By that reasoning, we should close down all the museums and art galleries in the country and buy German sausage for the masses instead," Renat Davlyetyarov, associate director of the festival, told the *Moscow Times* earlier in the week.

"For the 10 days that the festival runs, the film world will be centered on Russia," he said. "Foreign producers will see for themselves the dire straits we have fallen into."

President Boris Yeltsin seems to agree. In a message of greetings read at the festival's opening, he said cinematography "is an important part of Russian culture and the state will do its best for its development."

Only one of the 48 films being shown during the festival is from Russia: Alexander Sokurov's *"Mother and Son."*

Among the others are *"Trainspotting," "Marvin's Room," "Cannes Man," "The Learning Circle"* and *"Children of the Revolution."* Twenty countries will be represented.

The festival has been held in alternate years since the 1950s.

(AP)

(Contd From Pg. 12)

FILM...

because we do not want to disappoint people like Cannes did," he said.

Most critics felt this year's Cannes Film Festival was more notable for its celebrities than for its movies.

After reporters insisted on knowing which stars could be expected in Venice this year, Laudadio replied: "The Venice Festival is not organized for photographers to get good snapshots."

The few star-filled productions are Woody Allen's *"Deconstructing Harry"* with Demi Moore, Robin Williams and the director himself; Mike Figgis' *"One Night Stand"* with Nastassja Kinski and Wesley Snipes, and Alan Rickman's *"The Winter Guest"* with Emma Thompson and her theater-actress mother Phyllida Law.

The Allen film, which opens the festival, isn't in competition, while the other two are among 18 films vying for the Golden Lion award.

The festival will be dedicated to Marcello Mastroianni, the Italian film star who died earlier this year. A four-hour documentary, *"Marcello Mastroianni: I Remember, Yes I Remember"*, produced by his companion, Anna Maria Tato, will be shown.

The festival will honor director Stanley Kubrick for his career's work.

Films in competition include two films on Europe's armed separatist groups — Spaniard Daniel Calparsoro's *"A Ciegas"* (Blindly), about the Basque organization ETA, and *"The Informant,"* a work by Irish director Jim McBride about the Irish Republican Army.

Hong Kong-born Wayne Wang's *"Chinese Box"*, Japan's Takeshi Kitano's *"Hana-Bi"* and China's Zhang Yimou's *"Keep Cool,"* reflecting growing interest of Europeans for films by or about Asians, were chosen for the lineup.

The jury will be headed by Austrialian film director Jane Campion.

(AP)

(Contd from Pg. 10)

MIR ......

The decision likely means French astronaut Leopold Eyharts will have to postpone his scientific mission originally scheduled for launch with the new crew on Aug. 5.

Solovyov explained that the French experiments would take more time and energy than the hobbled station can provide until it regains full power.

Mir commander Vasily Tsibliyev, meanwhile, was do to undergo an medical examination, including an electrocardiogram to determine if his heartbeat is back to normal, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. Tsibliyev has been on sedatives and heart medication since reporting an uneven heartbeat.

On an official rest day Saturday, the crew continued to fix the damage from a massive power blackout that occurred Thursday when someone in the tired crew pulled the wrong plug, causing a vital computer to crash. They reengaged the station's gyroscope system, allowing the handicapped station to regain its precise orientation toward the sun and conserve precious fuel supplies.

Solovyov said the tricky repair job might pile too much extra stress on a crew already worn down by the Mir's series of misfortunes, which include a fire, oxygen system breakdown, cooling system leaks and the June 25 cargo ship collision.

"The fatigued crew at the Mir station should probably not go into the depressurized Spektr module," he said.

Whenever the complex repairs are carried out, a cosmonaut will have to don a spacesuit to venture into the sealed Spektr. Using special flexible gloves, he will have to painstakingly reattach power cables to the module's three working solar panels.

The station's next crew, Anatoly Solovyev and Pavel Vinogradov, has been practicing the repair in an underwater tank at Russia's Cosmonaut Training Center outside Moscow.

(AP)

(Contd from Pg. 10)

MILLION ......

Saving Turtle Lifelong Mission for Conservationist

When the visitor hands over a 500 rupee ($8) contribution to the hatchery, he beams with delight.

"That is good. With that money we can now buy 250 eggs from the fishermen. You are a daddy 250 times over," he said.

Saving the turtle for posterity has been a lifelong mission for Chandrasiri but his largesse towards nature does not stop there.

He once helped to hatch a litter of 10 baby pythons and proudly shows off photographs of the writhing mass at his house.

But then he shamefacedly admits: "My wife was not at all pleased. I had to go and release them in the jungle."

Turtle Man Never Tires of Sunset Ritual

Chandrasiri never tires of the sunset ritual of scooping up the squirming baby turtles in his net and heading down to the beach as the light gently fades across the Indian Ocean.

You can hear the thunderous roar of the waves crashing against the coral reef out to sea. The beach is enveloped in a thin mist of spray. The waves pound down on the shore.

Over goes the net on the sand, out roll the tiny turtles and finally begins the incredible journey on a life than can last up to 200 years.

(Reuter)

Condition of World Muslim Minorities

LEGAL MEANS TO VINDICATE THEIR RIGHTS

MOHAMMAD-JAVAD ZARIF

He further said, "The third group of Muslim minorities is made up of the native residents of some countries who, or whose fathers or ancestors, have converted to Islam. These Muslim minorities are present in both Western and non-Western countries."

The deputy foreign minister also considered the dispersion of the Muslim minorities in the non-Islamic countries as very extensive, saying that almost in all countries in the world there are Muslim minorities.

"In the United States, the Muslim minority has a population somewhere between six to eight million. In India, 22 percent of the 950-million Indian population are Muslims, around 200 million. Considering that Indonesia has the greatest Muslim population among the OIC members, nearly 180 million, we come to know that the greatest Muslim population in the world is present in India, a non-Islamic country," Zarif stated.

He added that some countries, however, are not willing to reveal the exact population of their minorities, especially their Muslim minorities, due to some political reasons. Thus, the statistics given by them are not very reliable, he stressed.

Mehrpour, expounding why Muslim minorities in the world are deprived of their fundamental rights, said that some measures taken by the Western countries indicate that they are deeply concerned about the spread of Islam and intend to somehow contain it.

He added that the Western countries' concern about the diffusion of Islam has been intensified during the recent decades, especially after the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Thus, he noted, in order to check the Islamic diffusion, they are discriminating against the Muslims.

"However, as the Western countries call themselves the standard-bearers for human rights and make lots of propaganda in this regard, their religious discrimination against the Muslim minorities is covert and concealed," Mehrpour noted.

The head of the CSS further said that the countries in the West use laicism as a tool for encroaching on the rights of the Muslim minorities.

"Although the Constitutions of countries with secular systems like France emphasize the respect for the beliefs and basic rights of all individuals regardless of their religion, those countries in practice restrict Muslims' freedom of religion and take discriminatory measures against them in the name of laicism," Mehrpour pointed out.

He stressed that to vindicate and restore the rights of the Muslim minorities in other countries, legal channels should be applied.

On the spread of Islam and conversion to this religion among other nations, Zarif said that the highest rate of conversion to divine religions belongs to Islam, adding that the growing number of Muslims in the world is the main cause of concern for the Westerners.

"That is why the Western countries, through raising issues like secularism, friction between cultures, the new threat of Islam, terrorism and the like, are trying to restrict the religious freedom and infringe the rights of their Muslim minorities. Such restrictions and infringements have doubled the problems facing the Muslim minorities in the world," he added.

The deputy foreign minister further said that the West is also launching the disinformation and smear campaign against the Muslims, in general, and new converts to Islam, in particular.

"If something unpleasant takes place somewhere in the world, they promptly attribute it to Muslims. However, later it is proven that the allegations against Muslims have been baseless," he noted.

Concerning the problems facing the ethnic and emigrant Muslim minorities, Zarif said that in most of the Western countries, there is a feeling of hatred against emigrants and foreigners, which is described as 'xenophobia'. Such feeling is now aggravated by anti-Islam propaganda and is particularly directed at Muslim minorities, he added.

The Foreign Ministry's senior official also said that in some countries, Muslims are not considered as minorities for political reasons.



"If those countries recognize Muslims as minorities, then they should grant them specific rights. Thus, to evade this, the Western countries claim that they have no religious minorities. They argue that such minorities exist when there is an official religion in the country and because their systems are founded on laicism, there is no official religion and, as a result, there are no religious minorities to be granted specific rights," he added.

"Consequently, the Muslims are deprived of their fundamental rights. For instance, in the United States, there are some six to eight million Muslims, their population being much greater than that of the Jewish ethnic group, which is nearly three and a half million. However, the Muslims have no representatives neither in the Congress nor in the Senate," he pointed out.

The deputy minister went on to say that the Muslims in those countries are also suffering from concealed religious discrimination, which affects their social lives and economic and political activities, adding that they are also facing obstacles in the way of practicing their religion and sealing their fate.

Mehrpour, referring to the ways of removing such barriers and restoring the rights of Muslim minorities in the world, said, "I believe, in order to prevent such discrimination against the Muslim minorities in other countries, we should apply legal channels recognized by the international community. The UN Charter, the UN Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights conventions all emphasize the fundamental and natural rights of human beings and impartial treatment of racial, religious and ethnic minorities. These are the legal means which should be applied by the Muslim minorities."

The secretary of the SNSC's legal committee further noted that the Westerners do not openly engage in religious discrimination against Muslims, but try to tarnish their image so that their international status would be damaged.

"Islam is the standard-bearer for justice and human rights, but the Western media in their smear campaign against Muslims allege that, if in a country an Islamic government comes to power, it will restrict the liberty and violate the rights of its citizens," he noted.

Mehrpour further said, "The Muslims approve of religious tolerance, believing that it will lead to peaceful coexistence among followers of different religions. However, some countries in the world claiming to be staunch advocates of religious tolerance are in fact in favor of religious remissness and laxity. Thus, if someone offends the sensibilities of the Muslims and they object to it, those countries charge the Muslims with violating the human rights!"

Zarif, commenting on the religious tolerance, said that last year was called the Year of Religious Tolerance, but the Westerners construed tolerance as having no faith, which is the opposite of the intended meaning.

On the religious freedom, he noted, "Article 19 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the freedom to practice religion, either individually or collectively, as among the fundamental human rights. Therefore, if some countries try to restrict this freedom based on secularism, their action is indeed a violation of the human rights."

He added, "It was the Third World which took the initiative in vindicating the human rights disregarded by Israel and South Africa under apartheid. Today, it is also up to the Third World and Islamic countries to be more assertive and take the initiative in this regard. The Islamic countries have actually deprived themselves of the internationally recognized legal means to defend and restore the fundamental rights of the Muslim minorities."



HOSSEIN MEHRPOUR

The deputy foreign minister reiterated that if the Islamic countries use the OIC effectively and also apply the international means to woo the world public opinion, they can greatly help to restore the rights of the Muslim minorities.

He added that the Islamic non-governmental institutions for human rights, which are presently few in number, can have a crucial role in vindicating the rights of the Muslim minorities.

"Moreover, if the International Islamic Human Rights Commission is formed, it can also take positive steps towards improving the condition of the Muslim minorities and defending their rights," he pointed out.

The participants in the round table also touched on the Islamic Human Rights Declaration, issued in Cairo on Aug. 6, 1990.

Mehrpour said that, although this declaration underscores many significant aspects of human rights, its present form is not optimal and it should be given a rather more legal structure.

Zarif also called on the Islamic countries to explore the fundamental human rights highlighted by Islam. He said that approving the Cairo declaration by the Islamic countries was a right measure, but the declaration, in its present form, cannot portray a clear picture of human rights in Islam.

"The declaration was meant as a prelude to an Islamic Human Rights Convention, which should have a more legal text and structure," he noted.

The deputy foreign minister further considered the formation of the Islamic Human Rights Convention as a necessity and a positive step towards restoring the rights of the Muslims.

"Boy Soldiers" in Clashes in Arms-Saturated Cambodia

PHNOM PENH— Teenage "Boy Sokiiers" with no military training are being sent into battle with forces loyal to Cambodia's feuding co-prime ministers, diplomats and human rights officials say.

Australian defense attache David Mead, in an unprecedented public appeal for a halt to the violence, also warned that at least 250,000 gun-toting fighters were "out of control" of any command in the arms-flooded country, threatening the prospect of peace here.

Colonel Mead, who has travelled extensively across conflict-wracked Cambodia in his three years as military attache in Phnom Penh, said he "was sick" of seeing the devastating toll years of fighting was taking on the war-weary population.

"There are boy soldiers out there, I saw boys who are soldiers on the battlefield in hospital," he said after interviewing at least one 15-year-old and several other minors wounded this week in clashes in northern Cambodia.

"This sort of thing should not happen," he told reporters at a special weekend briefing.

He said he had asked the army's deputy chief of staff to investigate the use of minors and revealed that the senior commander had subsequently agreed to withdraw them. But the problem still persists among other factions.

"It's not even in their interest to have untrained teenagers fighting for them — they're not even soldiers, they're civilians with a gun and a uniform," he said.

Mead, who this week visited the front lines between the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) troops of powerful second premier Hun Sen and those of his rival, ousted co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh, said there were "a number" of youths aged between 15 and 17 in combat.

On the frontlines in northern Cambodia last week, several patently young teenagers wearing combat uniforms and carrying machine guns almost as tall as themselves were seen moving to the battle zone. They insisted they were 18.

Other Western diplomats and aid workers also expressed concern over the phenomenon, but no estimates of the numbers of boy soldiers was available.

"We are aware of young people being recruited as soldiers," said Friedrun Medaert, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross here said.

"I can't say whether its a big problem because I haven't seen them myself, but even one boy soldier is too many," she added. Medaert said using children under the age of 15 in combat contravened protocols to the Geneva Convention.

She added that although Cambodia had not signed the protocols, "It was accepted world practice not to use children in combat" or in active positions if they were under 18.

A human rights worker who visited a CPP prisoner of war camp near Phnom Penh said "at least 10 of the 150 prisoners were minors. There is no doubt that there are children pressed into service on both sides."

Mead said many youngsters were pulled in to bolster numbers of fighters and given no training at all.

The two sides have been locked in 12 days of sporadic clashes in northern Cambodia, a conflict which erupted after street battles in Phnom Penh on July 5 and 6 saw the effective ouster of Prince Ranariddh by Hun Sen.

The CPP routed the prince's royalist Funcinpec troops from Siem Reap, forcing them to retreat more than 60 kilometers (36 miles) northwest towards the Thai border.

On Friday, beleaguered Funcinpec suffered another decisive defeat with the loss of their last major base at Samrong to CPP troops, with only the most cursory of fights.

Funcinpec has offered little resistance and most clashes in the north have been "indirect," limited to the use of long-range heavy weapons, Mead said.

Mead warned that Cambodia's long history of conflict and violence appeared to be far from over as the country was saturated with arms, many of them in the hands of unpredictable individuals.

He estimated there were at least 500,000 small arms in the country — a ratio of one weapon for every five male adults in the strife-torn nation.

"I believe that at least 250,000 of these weapons are in the control of the military and militias and are under somebody's command," he said. "I suggest that 250,000 are therefore out of control."

"We have a problem here. Unless somebody takes control of the weapons in this society, how can this country come out of the turmoil?" he asked. (AFP)

Dispute Continues Over Vote in Mexico's Campeche

MEXICO CITY— An opposition party on Thursday attacked the government over election results in the southern Mexican state of Campeche, saying the vote was full of irregularities.

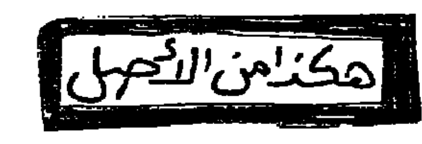
The left-wing party of the democratic revolution (PRD) said the July 6 election for governor was held "without legality" and that local election authorities had favoured the ruling party.

The long-ruling institutional revolutionary party (PRI) lost its absolute majority in the lower house of congress in the elections, as well as the mayoralty of Mexico City and two state governorships.

But it appears to have kept Campeche, an oil-producing state on the Gulf of Mexico.

PRD candidate Layda Sansores has said she was cheated of victory and organized protests in the state since the vote.

(Reuter)



After Mass Weddings ... Mass Divorce

CAIRO — A Cairo court granted the divorce in one sitting of 10 young Egyptian women who had been married off to rich Persian Gulf Arabs and then abandoned, the government daily Al-Akhbar reported Sunday.

The Persian Gulf Arabs married the young girls during holidays to Egypt before they returned to their countries and were not heard from again, the newspaper said.

The judge at the Cairo civil court said the 10 husbands had not responded to the tribunal's notice of the divorce hearings. (AFP)

Filipino Man Sets Daughter on Fire

CEBU — A Filipino man doused his daughter with kerosene and set her on fire here after she arrived home late.

Neighbors who heard the 15-year-old girl's screams rushed her to a hospital in this central Philippine city before dawn Saturday and doctors were treating her for third-degree burns.

He reportedly took a can of kerosene, poured it over his daughter and set her on fire. The girl, her clothes ablaze, ran out of the house screaming in pain and lay writhing on the ground before neighbors came to the rescue. (AFP)

Hundreds Evacuated as Torrential Rain Lashes Europe

WARSAW — Hundreds of people were evacuated from towns in Poland and the Czech Republic overnight as rivers burst their banks following torrential rain in the area, local authorities said Sunday.

In southwest Poland, more than 1,600 people were evacuated overnight on Saturday while dozens waited Sunday morning on their roofs to be rescued by military helicopter.

Across the border the Czech Republic a similar operation was carried out to evacuate hundreds of people from their homes in the north of the country while in the east along the River Oder, a local state of emergency was declared.

Damage running into millions of dollars has also been caused by the heavy rainfall which Sunday was also causing problems in Germany, Austria and Italy.

In eastern Germany, the River Oder broke through river defenses in several places, prompting a state of emergency though authorities said the river had stopped rising Sunday.

With urgent repairs needed where the waters had broken through, officials said the situation remained worrying. The main concern was for the 167 kilometers (100 miles) of dyke that has had to hold back the massive water pressure for the past few days, and which have been weakened by heavy rains.

In northern Italy on Sunday morning 40 people were injured, two of them seriously, when a violent tornado swept through the beach resort of Bibione, near to the historic city of Venice. (AFP)

IRA Truce Starts in N.Ireland, Arms Row Continues

BELFAST — An IRA cease-fire in its war against Britain took effect at midday Sunday, overshadowed by threats from pro-British unionists to boycott talks which the nationalist guerrillas' spokesmen are now on track to join.

The IRA truce, announced on Saturday, formally halted a 28-year war against British rule of Northern Ireland and will allow its Sinn Fein political wing to take part in the talks in six weeks if the cease-fire is deemed genuine by Britain.

But unionists, who want Northern Ireland to stay British, threatened to walk out of the year-long negotiations in a row over ground rules which will allow Sinn Fein to take part without the IRA surrendering a single bullet first.

The leader of the mainstream Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), David Trimble, kept silent ahead of a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Monday which could determine whether his party, the province's biggest, stays at the negotiations. "We will be going (to see Blair) with an open mind. We will be fearful of the outcome nonetheless," the UUP's security spokesman Ken Maginnis told reporters.

But he could not conceal his anger at Anglo-Irish proposals that will relegate the surrender of arms held by the IRA and its Protestant loyalist foes to a sub-committee of the negotiations alongside a search for a political settlement.

Adams says that the legal party which he leads is separate from the IRA.

A 17-year-old catholic was shot in both legs in an IRA-style "punishment shooting" on Saturday, 24 hours before the guerrillas' truce tooks effect, police said. (Reuter)



BELFAST, Northern Ireland (July 19): Six-year-old Conor McKeown attends the Sinn Fein rally at the Anderssinstown Road in Belfast. (AFP PHOTO)

Ranariddh Meets With Royalist Followers in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Ousted Cambodian first Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh arrived here Sunday to pursue his campaign for the isolation of rival co-Premier Hun Sen ahead of a key Southeast Asian meeting this week.

Ranariddh met Sunday with his son Chakravudh, Cambodian diplomats and Funcinpec Party officials who fled the troubled country following the outbreak of factional fighting in Phnom Penh.

Singapore television said Ranariddh, who is accompanied by his wife Princess Marie and daughter Rattana Devi, hosted a lunch for his followers.

The Singapore Foreign Ministry said he would meet Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong on Monday.

The visit here is part of a tour of Southeast Asia and other capitals by Ranariddh to garner support in his campaign against Second Prime Minister Hun Sen. (AFP)

International Briefs



30 Killed in Stepped-Up Violence in Kashmir

NEW DELHI — At least 30 people were killed in renewed separatist violence overnight in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir, PTI reported Sunday. Twenty-two Muslim separatists and five Indian soldiers were among those killed in separate clashes since Saturday night.

Turk Leaves Wife in Italian Lay-By

BOLZANO, Italy — A Turkish man driving from Belgium to his homeland accidentally left his wife behind at an Italian motorway service station, and drove 250 kilometers (130 miles) before noticing she was missing, police here said Sunday.

Killing of "Witches" on Rise in India

NEW DELHI — As many as 12 women have been killed this year after being branded as witches in an eastern Indian district, UNI reported Sunday. The latest killing occurred last week in tribal-dominated Purulia District where two widows accused of practicing witchcraft were hacked to pieces by relatives and then thrown on burning stakes.

Mafia "Godmother" Arrested in Palermo

PALERMO, Sicily — Police arrested a woman leader of one of the most dangerous clans of the Sicilian Mafia. The arrest Saturday of Giuseppina Sansone, 43, marks a turning point in the history of the Cosa Nostra which previously refused to admit women.

Bangladeshi Arrested for 'Musical' Trespassing

ABU DHABI — A Bangladeshi man arrested in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for trespassing told police he did so because he loved music.

Police Fire on Mob at Burmese Refugee Camp

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh — At least 10 people were injured Sunday when police fired shots and teargas on a mob who tried to prevent a scheduled repatriation of Burmese Muslim refugees.

Charles Gives Camilla 100,000 Pound Bracelet

LONDON — Prince Charles has given Camilla Parker Bowles a 100,000 pound ($170,000) diamond bracelet on her 50th birthday, a leading tabloid reported.

Planes Collide Over Lake Michigan

CHICAGO — Two private planes collided over Lake Michigan and fell into the water about 300 yards off shore on Saturday, three bodies were recovered about an hour later.

62 Deaf-Mute Mexicans Saved From Virtual Slavery

NEW YORK — Police here discovered two apartments where 62 deaf-mute undocumented Mexican migrants were living, forced to work against their will in virtual slavery to pay off their smugglers.

Yemen's Ruling Party Boycotts Parliament Session

SAN'A — Yemen's ruling political party boycotted a parliamentary session on Sunday in protest against the assembly speaker's call for a debate on recent price rises.

Vietnam Reports High Turnout in Assembly Elections

HANOI — Vietnam announced success Sunday in nationwide polls for a new National Assembly, reporting turnout levels at 100 percent in many areas hours before voting closed.

The official Vietnam news agency said some districts had achieved 100 percent turnout shortly after 07.00 a.m. local time, meaning that many polling stations could close hours ahead of time.

Election officials said full results were not expected to be known before Wednesday. Local police in Hanoi, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City said the day had passed without incident.

Sunday's polls were for an enlarged 450-seat Parliament, an increase of 55 seats from the current legislature. But as usual for an election in Vietnam — a communist state where only one party is permitted by law — little was being left to chance.

Hanoi residents woke to the sound of stirring music from the city-wide megaphone network and messages instructing people on how to fulfil their civic duties.

Outside the city's 1,540 polling stations, middle-aged women in traditional silk dress encouraged passers-by to participate in the official atmosphere of festivity.

All 663 candidates were officially approved. Most were members of the ruling Communist Party, and 202 were women — complying accurately with state directives aimed at ensuring they occupy around 30 percent of parliamentary seats. (AFP)

Slow Start to Mali Poll After Violence

BAMAKO — Mali, a star of Africa's democracy movement in the 1990s, held a rerun of a scrapped April parliamentary election on Sunday with the radical opposition boycotting the poll and threatening to disrupt it.

Witnesses said that early turnout was low after opposition activists ransacked and set fire to the national headquarters of the west African nation's ruling Adema Alliance and a town hall in the capital Bamako Saturday night. (Reuter)

Tigers Assassinate Muslim MP

COLOMBO — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Sunday shot dead a Muslim legislator and five other people in a daring attack and dealt a double blow to Sri Lanka's political reforms aimed at ending ethnic bloodshed, officials said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) ambushed a four-wheel drive vehicle carrying opposition United National Party (UNP) MP, Mohammed Maharoof, 58, in the northeastern district of Trincomalee.

Police said Tiger gunmen first opened fire at Maharoof's driver and then sprayed bullets at other passengers, including a principal of a Muslim college in the area, after the vehicle came to a halt on the main highway.

Tension mounted in the coastal region following the killing and the Muslim cleric immediately issued an impassioned appeal for calm, local officials said as police stepped up security in the trincomalee town. (AFP)



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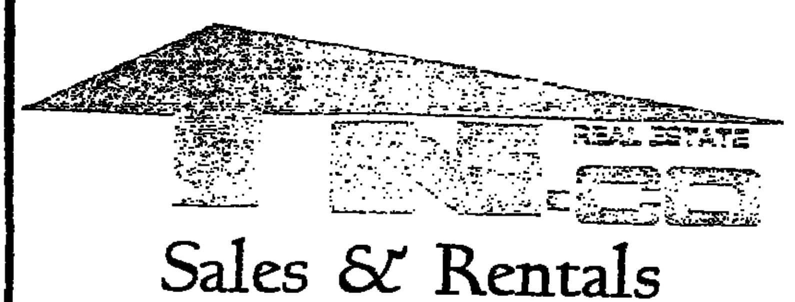
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LONDON, United Kingdom (July 15): Police officers Dennis Reid (R) and Stephen Tatler standing guard at No. 10 Downing Street, look bemused as a mother duck takes her family on a shortcut from St. James's Park.

(AFP PHOTO)

Mormon Trail West Began for Many Ancestors in Europe

YELLOW CREEK, Utah — Rhonda Robertson leans against the bar of her handcart and the wheels grind as she labors to finish the Mormon trail a nine-year-old Norwegian ancestor died trying to do.

About 400 people are reenacting the 150th anniversary of the Mormon trail with 52 horse-drawn wagons and a dozen handcarts, forming what is likely to be the last major wagon train west this century, if ever again.

Most of their ancestors came from Scandinavia, Wales and Britain to make the 2,092-kilometer (1,300-mile) journey from Navoo, Illinois to their hoped for religious refuge in Salt Lake Valley, Utah — or died trying.

By 1869, some 70,000 Mormons fleeing religious persecution would make the trek. Some 6,000 people were buried along the way. One group pulling handcarts lost 150 men, women and children to Wyoming blizzards.

Robertson picked up the trail about 563 kilometers (350 miles) back at Rocky Ridge, Wyoming where young Bodill Mortensen on October 24, 1856 went out in an early snowstorm to collect sage to burn to warm the family caring for her.

When they awoke and didn't see her in the tent, they looked for her and found her dead, leaning against the wagon wheel of the their handcart, her arms frozen around an armful of sage, according to a diary account.

"The story broke my heart. I wanted to finish the journey for her to commemorate the sacrifice that she and her parents made," said 41-year-old Robertson dressed in a pioneer bonnet and long dress.

The Mormon Church drew many of its converts from abroad, some seeking to leave behind poverty with Mormons paying their way and the emigres repaying their debt with labor.

Of the 70,000 who made it to Salt Lake Valley in the 1800s, 98 percent were from Europe with 75 percent of those from Britain.

Since the Mormons made their way west, their numbers have grown to 10 million worldwide, about half in the United States. The most dramatic growth has been in Latin America where there are about 3.5 million. Some 600,000 live in Asia.

With this group, which began in April and is expected to arrive in Salt Lake Valley on July 22, is Osamu Sekiguchi, 35, of Tokyo and his wife, Takako, and his sons Yuji, 9, and Koji, 7.

"As a Mormon, I didn't want to miss this experience because I know it won't be repeated," Osamu Sekiguchi said.

He and his family have walked most of the way through rainstorms in Nebraska and the cold of Wyoming. On the way to Yellow River, though, Sekiguchi succumbed to dehydration.

Feverish and in pain, he was unable to even talk to explain his condition. Someone finally recognized it and he was given an intravenous solution. He was walking the trail the next morning.

He brushes that experience off, saying the toughest time was the first two weeks he arrived when they endured thunderstorms and bone-chilling winds in Nebraska.

"We slept in wet sleeping bags. My children cried then and asked to go back to Japan," he recalls. "They missed their computers and friends and comforts."

"But they have learned to do things for themselves — set up camp, take care of horses. In Japan, they were spoiled. Now they are independent."

Wero Karena, 54, of Hastings, New Zealand came with his wife Patsy and his two daughters Jessica, 10, and Tamar, 8. He is fifth generation Mormon after missionaries came to his homeland looking to convert Maori.

"We came for a taste of what the original Mormons who made this journey went through. We had four days of really cold weather," he says from under his wagon where he had been napping at camp.

"It helps you understand what they went through. To understand their commitment, the faith in every step."

(AFP)

Japan Beheading Suspect Says Attacks Were "Sacred"

KOBE, Japan — A 15-year-old boy held in custody for beheading a playmate and attacking four girls, battering one to death, believed he was carrying out "sacred experiments," Japanese media reported on Saturday.

Quoting police sources, Kyodo news service said the boy's motives were revealed in a notebook he kept of his actions. He was aged only 14 at the time of all the attacks.

A police spokesman had no comment on the reports but said a notebook in the boy's handwriting was found in his home.

In one entry, dated March 16, and addressed to "Bamoidooki god.", the boy described in four pages how he hit Ayaka Yamashita, 10, with a hammer and then used a knife to stab another girl, aged nine..

The name that the boy gave to his god has no meaning in Japanese and police believe he simply made up the name.

Ayaka died of head injuries a week later, and the other girl was seriously injured with stab wounds to the stomach.

"I asked a girl playing alone in a park where I could wash my hands. She answered I could do so at a school. I asked her to take me there," the boy wrote.

"I said to her, 'please look back at me, so I may thank you.' When she turned round, I brought a hammer down (on her head). I think I hit her a few times but I was too excited to remember."

The boy's writings revealed that before stabbing the other girl, he chased a small boy to attack him, but gave up when he lost sight of the boy.

In an entry on March 17, the day after his alleged attacks on the two girls, the boy wrote: "I was surprised neither of them have died. I came to know human beings are strong."

In another entry the boy said he was carrying out "sacred experiments to confirm the fragility of human beings."

A March 23 entry said the boy's mother told him of Ayaka's death.

"There are no signs that I'll be arrested," he wrote.

The boy was arrested on June 28 on suspicion of murdering Jun Hase, 11, whose severed head was found on May 27 in front of the Kobe high school the suspect attended.

Police have said they are also questioning the boy about attacks in February on two girls who suffered minor injuries when they were hit with a hammer.

Media reports have quoted police as saying the boy has confessed to all the crimes.

The boy's name has been withheld because he is a juvenile.

(Reuter)

Families of TWA Crash Victims Briefed on Probe

CALVERTON, New York — After three days of mourning to mark the anniversary of the crash of TWA flight 800, the victims' families were briefed Saturday on the investigation.

Some family members also visited the hangar where investigators have used debris from the aircraft to nearly reconstruct it in hopes of discovering what brought down the Paris-bound Jumbo Jet.

But others chose to skip that tour, including Frenchman Herve Schwertz, whose brother-in-law was among the 230 people who died in the July 17, 1996 crash off New York.

"I did not want to imagine Benoit living in this carcass," Schwertz said.

The relatives, some of whom visited the site in February, were briefed by investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), who have failed so far to find the cause of the disaster, although they are leaning toward the theory of a bizarre fuel tank explosion.

NTSB chairman Robert Francis confirmed that tests with a similar Boeing 747 showed hot air pockets may have increased the risk of a spontaneous explosion, but said that itself was not conclusive evidence.

Margie Predeth, an Australian whose niece and sister died in the crash, expressed confidence in the investigators.

"They are really doing all they can," she said.

"There are so many agencies that they couldn't cover up" the possibility of a missile, as suggested by some observers, her husband Max added.

Marc Cayrol, another Frenchman whose brother Jacques-Bernard died in the crash, said the visit was aimed at "increasing the pressure on U.S. authorities ... to do everything to reach a conclusion."

On Sunday, family members were to meet with New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani and hold a final ceremony at St. John the divine cathedral.

(AFP)

Crocodile Kills Illegal Immigrant on South Africa-Zimbabwe Border





MESSINA, South Africa — A crocodile closed its jaws on a Zimbabwean trying to cross illegally into South Africa and dragged him underwater while his companion watched helplessly, police here said Saturday.

The incident happened as the two men crossed the Limpopo River, near the Beit bridge border point, in search of work in South Africa, the national news agency SAPA reported.

The victim yelled and unsuccessfully tried to loosen the crocodile's grip on his leg before he was pulled under and drowned. The survivor alerted the police.

Many such deaths occur every year along the Limpopo, which is as much as 500 metres (yards) wide in some places, as Zimbabweans continue to be drawn to their richer neighbor.

(AFP)

Rich but Bored: An Egyptian Woman Turns to Armed Robbery

CAIRO — A young Egyptian teenager blessed with wealth and happiness turned to armed robbery simply because she was bored, the press reported on Saturday.

"Robbery was delicious adventure," said the woman, aged around 18 and identified only as Ghada, who was sentenced last week to three years in prison for armed robbery and assault.

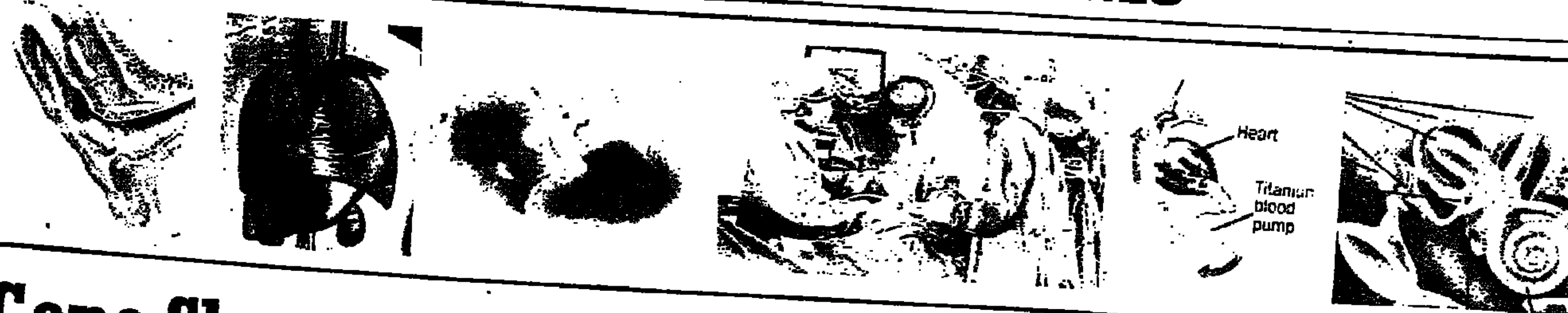
The daughter of a rich leather industrialist led a criminal gang of three young wealthy women, and was caught fleeing the scene of a crime when she ran smack into a police car.

"I had everything in life money, jewels, travel and cars" but was "profoundly bored," Ghada was quoted as saying in the Islamist newspaper *Al-Ahrar*.

Ghada began her life of crime stealing towels and silverware from hotels and throwing them from the window, but later bought a gun, attacking people to steal their money and jewels.

(AFP)

هكذا من الأصل



Gene Shown to Repair Spinal Cord Injuries in Rats

LOS ANGELES — Researchers said on Monday they reversed paralysis in laboratory rats using a gene therapy they hope could eventually be used to repair human spinal cord injuries.

Although such a potential treatment is a long way from being perfected, doctors said it offered new promise for a currently untreatable condition. Some 200,000 Americans are partly or completely paralysed because of spinal injuries, most frequently caused by automobile or driving accidents.

Researchers at the University of California at San Diego tested the treatment in laboratory rats. Their spinal cords were damaged in a way that impaired their ability to walk.

The gene therapy involved removing some of the rats' healthy cells, infusing them with a gene that stimulates the production of a growth factor, and then transplanting those genetically altered cells into the site of the spinal cord injury.

After three months, the researchers measured the improvement by observing the rats walk across a test grid.

The rats which had been treated with the gene therapy made two to three errors during the test, compared with an average of about eight made by the injured rats in the control group. Completely healthy rats made an average of less than one error while walking the test grid.

The lead investigator in the study, Dr. Mark Tuszynski, associate professor of neurosciences at the UCSD School of Medicine, published the results in the July 15 issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

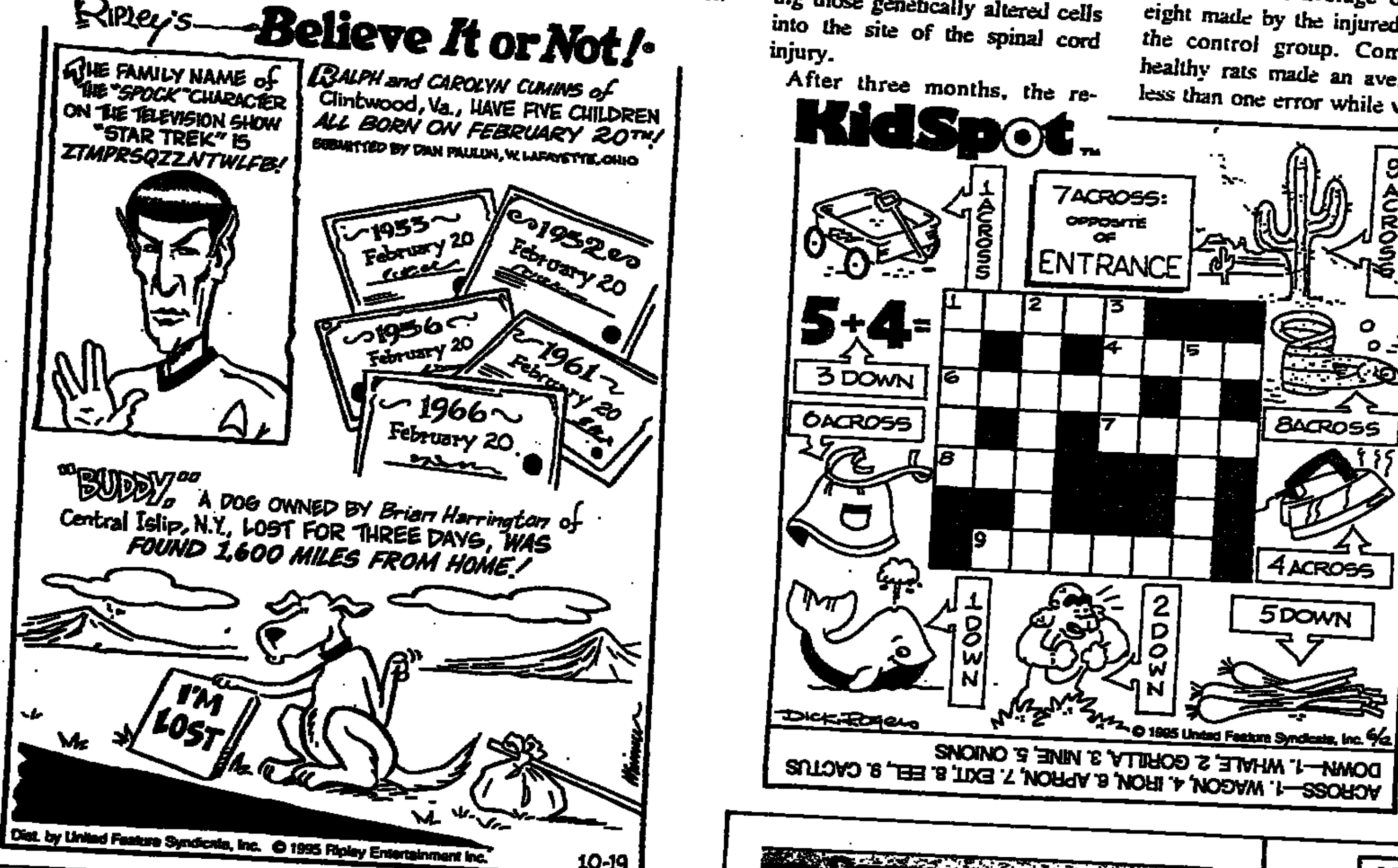
"The report shows there is hope for generating some recovery of function after a spinal cord injury," Tuszynski said, adding that it could offer benefits over another experimental treatment involving transplanting spinal tissue from aborted foetuses.

"The cells you would use in gene therapy would be a person's own cells," he said. "They are essentially available with a limitless supply. They are available immediately, and there is no ethical controversy associated with it."

Doctors have recently begun testing foetal tissue transplants in paralyzed patients to see if this could stimulate the damaged tissue to rebuild itself.

Tuszynski said he hoped to obtain federal funding to continue to test the gene therapy on larger animals that are anatomically closer to humans.

(Reuter)



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N I E N V T S — RACK 1

R A L T E N N — RACK 2

B E I F N T E — Triple Word Score — RACK 3

E T K E S T L — Double Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 175-185

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____

TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

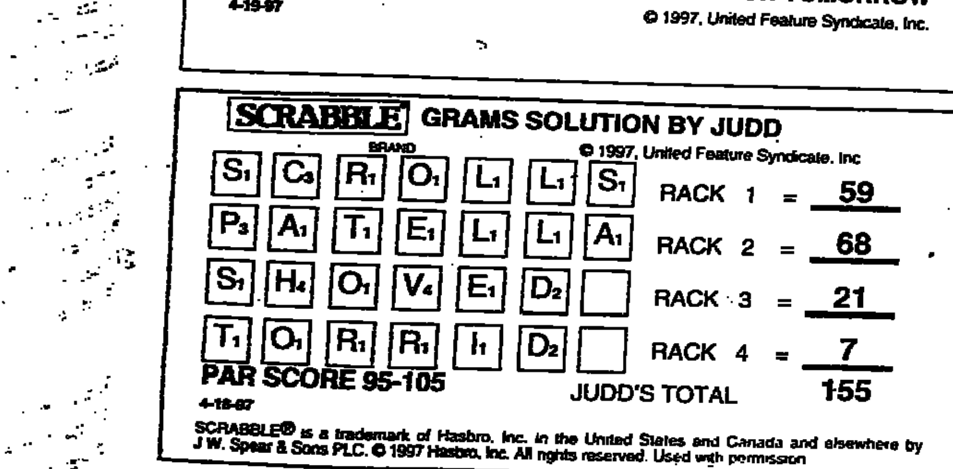
DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

4-19-97

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SCRABBLE GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

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S C R O L L S	RACK 1 = 59
P A T E L L A	RACK 2 = 68
S H O V E D	RACK 3 = 21
T O R R I D	RACK 4 = 7
PAR SCORE 95-105	JUDD'S TOTAL 155

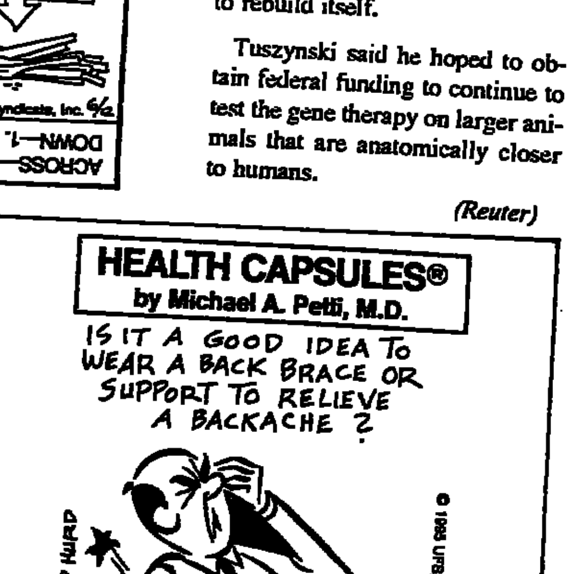
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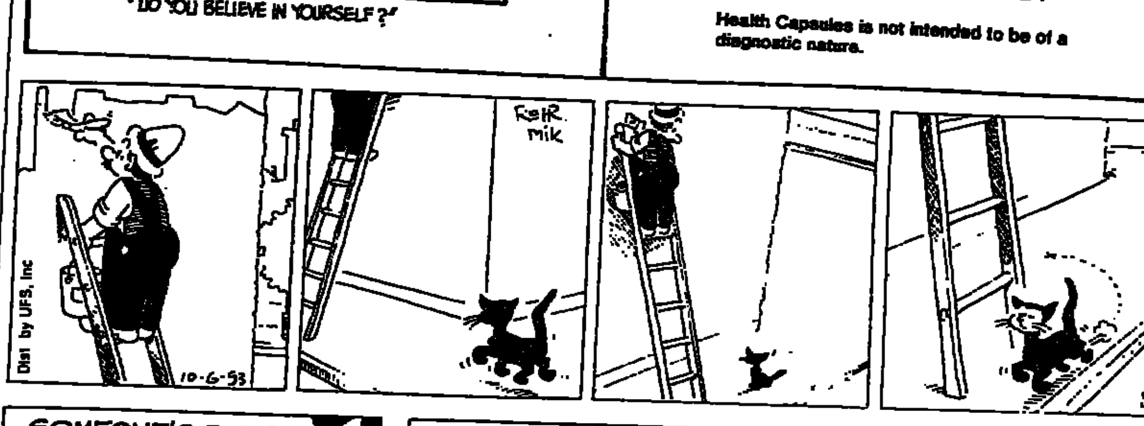
DENNIS THE MENACE

by Hank Ketcham

"DO YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF?"



Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.







THOUGHT

Experience makes us able pilots in the waves of fortune.

Edward Young

PRAYER

Noon 13:12
Evening.........................20:39
Dawn (tomorrow)..........04:20
Sunrise (tomorrow)........06:04

Fierce Debate at First World Conference on Breast Cancer

KINGSTON, Canada — The first world conference on breast cancer opened here Monday with fierce debate between medical experts and feminists over the necessity of mastectomies.

Steven Narod, an oncologist with the University of Toronto, said that 80 percent of women bearing a gene linked to breast cancer will be struck with the disease and that a mastectomy was the best way of preventing it.

Feminists, however, questioned that view, saying it asked women to mutilate themselves and that breast removal was not a proven prevention measure.

Bella Abzug, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and now leader of an Women's Environmental and Development Group in New York, said that until recently women underwent mastectomies when simply removing a breast tumor was sufficient.

"There is a lot of fortune-telling and bookmaking going on," said Abzug, who has been battling breast cancer for four years.

A researcher from Boston, Sandra Steingraber, said that only five percent of breast cancer cases are genetically related and that study should instead focus on environmental conditions, which have been known to be cancer-causing.

"Whether cancer materializes has everything to do with how bodies detoxify and repair damage from environmental problems," she said.

One alternative to mastectomies under study is anti-estrogen treatment, since estrogen development has been linked to growth of tumors.

Breast cancer causes a million deaths a year worldwide. The conference here brings together representatives of 30 countries who plan to adopt a worldwide action strategy by the end of their meetings Thursday.

(AFP)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1877 - British cabinet decides to declare war on Russia if it occupies Constantinople.

1962 - Indian and Chinese troops clash in two disputed areas of Kashmir.

1974 - United States announces that Greece and Turkey agree to ceasefire in war on Island of Cyprus.

1975 - Soviet Soyuz spacecraft lands safely in Soviet Central Asia after its rendezvous in space with U.S. Apollo craft.

1989 - Top Communist party leaders in Soviet Union call in sterner restrictions on freedom of the press.

1990 - Thousands of protesters clash with riot police in Seoul following demonstration that attracted nearly 300,000 South Koreans.

TEHRAN TIMES



Development Projects of Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex

Concurrent with the visit of Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani, the flagbearer of construction to Kerman Province, and in order to increase the production capacity of copper, Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex (SCC) underwent some development projects. These projects and their significance are presented below:

1. Expansion of Mine and Concentration

Being one of the richest series of mines in the country and the world, Sarcheshmeh copper mines can be regarded as a major economic base for achieving self-sufficiency.

Given the significance of SCC and its vital role in national economy, its economic capabilities have to be ultimately utilized to meet the country's future requirements. Plans must be made in order to increase the production capacity of SCC, and to optimize its manufacturing process. Based on the general specifications of Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex, a maximum 30 percent of the mines' mineral reserves can presently be exploited which is 360 million tons out of 1,200 million.

For this purpose and after the implementation of development projects, the exploitable capacity of mines will increase from 220 million tons of 1-percent-pure ore to 740 million tons of 78-percent-pure ore. In other words, the amount of ore exploited daily will rise from 40,000 to 80,000 tons while the mine's life is lengthened from 15 to 27 years. Once the mine is expanded and the amount of exploited ore increased, the production of SCC's concentration factory will reach from 13,200,000 to 26,792,000 tons annually.

This project takes 30 months to be completed and it is expected to be completed in September 1999. It is noteworthy that by implementing this project 200 people will be employed while the production of copper concentrate and molybdenum (a strategic and valuable metal) concentrate will respectively reach 182,000 and 1,620 tons.

This project needs an investment of 55,242 billion rials as well as 170 million dollars.

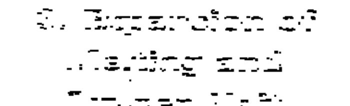
2. Expansion of Refinery

Expanding the refinery of SCC was a serious area of concern since long ago. It was regarded as a fundamental reform for achieving an increased production capacity.

The objective is to increase the production of copper from 137,000 to 200,000 tons annually. This will be achieved utilizing the latest technology together with stainless steel cathodes and coordinating the existing procedures in SCC.

Operations for this project will soon start once introductory studies are performed and the appropriate technology chosen. It is estimated that the project will take 20 months, 22,897 billion rials and 30 million dollars to be completed.

Hopefully once the refinery is expanded, not only the production of copper will increase from 137,000 to 200,000 tons; but also an annual amount of 150 million dollars will be added to SCC's foreign currency income out of which 11 million dollars is annual production interest.



3. Expansion of Casting and Oxygen Unit

This project aims at increasing the production of anodic copper in SCC. Its preliminary studies started long ago and its operations are about to start.

Completion of this project is estimated to take 30 months during which a complementary oxygen factory will be built and the melting furnace will be expanded based on the modern process of ISA or AUSMELT. It is expected that once this project is operational, the production of anodic copper will reach 100,000 tons annually.

The 60 billion rials plus 50 million dollars of investments needed for this project are expected to turnover within 3 years with the domestic turnover rate of 45 percent.

Given its specifications, this project is estimated to bring an annual income of 220 million dollars and an annual interest of 22 million dollars.

Parallel to the expansion of the melting project, construction of an oxygen factory (oxyfuel) with a daily production capacity of 250 tons is planned within 30 months. These two projects will provide 110 employment opportunities once they are operational.

Once its leaching project is operational, SCC will manufacture 14,000 tons of 99.99-percent-pure cathode copper plates annually to bring an estimated turn over of 35 million dollars a year.





4. Construction of an Acid Sulfuric Factory

Besides increasing the production capacity, achieving the latest know-how in manufacturing copper and advancing toward economic independence and self-sufficiency, it has been an objective of SCC to achieve international standards in environmental protection.

For this purpose and for reducing the pollution rate as well as optimal usage of SCC's emissions, a project was planned for producing sulfuric acid using SO2 gases emitting from the complex's smokestacks. Concurrent with the distinguished President's visit to SCC, operations for this project will start and they are expected to be concluded in 30 months.

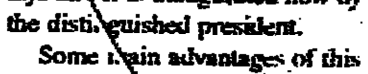
By implementing this project, 100,000 tons of 96-percent-pure sulfuric acid will be produced annually while 45 job opportunities provided. At the same time, this project will supply the sulfuric acid needed for the huge leaching project. Credits required for this project are 44,865 billion rials plus 10 million dollars which are estimated to turn over within 2 years with a domestic turnover rate of 41 percent.

The Gas Supply Project of Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex

Kerman Province hosted President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the flagbearer of construction recently. In his visit the President will inaugurate some major projects for industrial activities, mining, etc.

Among the projects inaugurated by the president are SCC's gas supply, sports center and the grand Imam Sajjad (AS) prayer hall. An account introducing each of these follows:

Since Iran is the second leading country in terms of gas reserves, it doesn't need to import natural gas, subsidize it or sustain costs for transportation and storage of natural gas. Also, it is a general policy of the Islamic Republic government to replace every kind of fuel with gas in the future. Therefore, it sounds logical to use natural gas in such major factories as SCC. For years executives were considering the use of gas-burning installations in SCC but since exploitation of Sarkhoun gas reserves (close to SCC) which is recently started, the gas supply of SCC faced delays and it is inaugurated now by the distinguished president.



Some main advantages of this project are:

a. Being Economical

Considering the full annual consumption of SCC, precise calculations show that in terms of macro-economics, it saves the country 12 million dollars every year. Of course the said figure comes only from the difference between the price of natural gas and other liquid fuels internationally. This will lead to reduced costs for the repair, maintenance and transportation of machinery while they stay functional for longer periods. Furthermore, with commissioning this project Iran can export an additional 2 million drums of oil resulting in 4 million dollars of income.

b. Expediting the Increase of Production

For the oxidation of anode furnaces, liquid gas (LPG) is presently provided from a refinery. This method usually delays the manufacturing process since the gas should be vaporized before it enters the furnace. It is hoped that once the gas supply project of SCC is operational, there will be no more delays in the manufacturing process and SCC's production takes an economical side.





c. Commissioning Sarcheshmeh Gas Power Plant

After the implementation of SCC's gas supply project, its power plant will be commissioned which will run on a more normal fuel as compared to die-

(Contd. on Pg. 9)

TEHRAN TIMES

JULY 21, 1997

Once Its Required Natural Gas Is Fully Supplied, the Giant Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex Will Save the Country 12 Million Dollars Annually





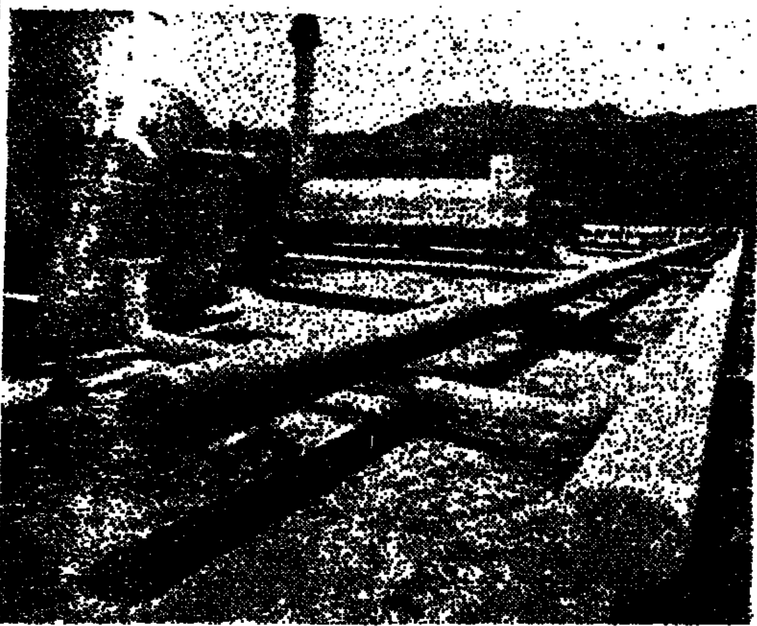
sel. Also by placing four gas-powered units in the network, the power generated will reach 50 to 60 mW. Credits needed for this project equal 46,882 billion rials plus 6.25 million dollars.

Religious and Sports Centers in SCC and Mes City

1. Another project inaugurated is the grand Imam Sajjad (AS) prayer hall located in SCC's factories. Constructed in 1,050m of built-up area on a 1800-sq.m land, this prayer hall has one and a half stories with males and females sections. It also contains a library, a refreshment room and a amphitheater for cultural and artistic purposes.

2. The newly-constructed sports center of Mes City is another establishment inaugurated by the distinguished president. This sports center is constructed on a 40,050-sq.m land and accommodates a hall with 3,881 sq.m of built-up area, a soccer field, a standard track and field course, wrestling and tae kwon do halls and the required sanitary wares.

The stadium's building has a



beautiful outlook with a steep concrete ceiling. It has 48 special seats in a 2,367-sq.m area and with the capacity of 2,210 spectators, it is capable of hosting national and international competitions. Considering the transfer of Shahrdari-e Kerman (Kerman Municipality) soccer team to Sarcheshmeh Copper Co., SCC is heading for achievements in sports.

A Review of the Gas Supply Project

Subject

Supplying gas to factories, a 125-mW power plant and Sarcheshmeh city, replacing other fuels in the thermal units of factories, Sarcheshmeh city and its power plant, replacing the fuels of operating furnaces.

Objective

Replacing 300,000 tons of liquid fuels consumed annually with natural gas based on the thermal value of the gas.

Advantages

- Eliminating the problems and costs of transporting and storing liquid fuels
- Reducing the problems and costs of commissioning, maintenance and repairs
- Eliminating a minimum cost of 2.5 billion rials a month spent on a 52 million kWh amount of power.

SCC manufactures 100,000 tons of copper every year. It has planned several development projects to achieve an annual production of 260,000 tons in the first phase and 520,000 tons in the second phase.

- Keeping maintenance and consumption into single systems thereby lowering the costs of repairs and operations
- Durability of gas-powered units as compared to those running on other types of fuel
- Reducing the amount of environmental pollutants

Gas Supplies

Sarkhoun reserves in Bandar Abbas are the gas supplies of SCC. After being refined in Sarkhoun Refinery No. 2, the gas is supplied to SCC through 390 km of 24-inch pipeline. SCC's maximum consumption is 17 percent of the refinery's present capacity.

Saving the Foreign Currency

By running on gas, SCC will save an annual of 12 billion dollars provided from the difference between the international price of natural gas and liquid fuels. Besides, the count will be able to export an additional 2 million drums of oil gaining a further 40 million dollars.

Expanse of SCC's Internal Network

The expanse of SCC's internal network is about 100 km. The network is supplied through two stations for reducing primary pressure and two units for reducing secondary pressure. The internal network's pressure is 60 lb/sa.in.

Construction Operations for SCC's Gas Supply

Since the city of Sarcheshmeh burns an annual 17 million liters of diesel and due to many problems including transportation, storage, temperature limitations and heavy costs of maintenance and repairs of 2,500 thermal units in the city all caused by burning diesel, officials at Sarcheshmeh Copper Complex decided to replace diesel with natural gas. A public tender is being put out to have a qualified contractor implement the project.

Constructing a Network for the Gas Power Plant

As there were different underground obstacles in SCC site including power supply network, water works and establishments of fire department, telecommunications and industrial sewerage, the network of Sarcheshmeh gas power plant was designed to be constructed above the ground level. Approved by Iranian National Gas Co., this method has already been successfully implemented in such major centers as Isfahan Iron Mill, Ahwaz Steel Complex and oil and gas refineries in Germany's N.A. Copper Complex in Hamburg.





About Leaching Method

Since there are over 27 million tons of oxidized copper ores with an average purity of 0.62 percent in SCC, experts started examining the methods of exploiting copper from oxidized ores. Technical and economic studies led to choosing an advanced method of manufacturing copper called leaching method. In this method, oxidized ores are dipped in acid and the copper exploited from this solution is turned into cathode plates. In next steps, pure copper is exploited from copper sulfates which were earlier gained by exposing copper-enriched ores to sulfuric acid.

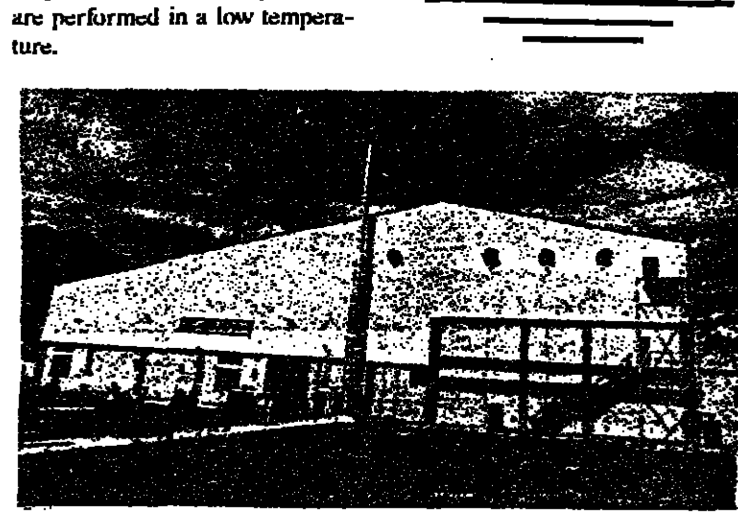
This is a highly economical method which lowers the costs by 30 percent. It especially works in case of minor mines or those with a poor purity. Another merit of this method is being environmentally harmless since its operations are performed in a low temperature.

Once its leaching project is operational, SCC will manufacture 14,000 tons of 99.99-percent-pure cathode copper plates annually to bring an estimated turn over of 35 million dollars a year.

Construction operations for this project started early 1995 and finished in May 1997 with a total cost of 30 million dollars added 80 billion rials.

At the moment, SCC manufactures 100,000 tons of copper every year. It has planned several development projects to achieve an annual production of 260,000 tons in the first phase and 520,000 tons in the second phase.

SCC's first phase of development includes other copper mines such as Songoun-e Ahar, Meydook-e Shahr-e Babak and Khatoon Abbad Melting Factory. In addition, SCC is working on other long-term plans to achieve an annual production of one million tons a year.



U.S. Unveils New Plan to Protect Atlantic Whales



PORTLAND, Maine — Federal regulators, under intense pressure from New England's lobster industry unveiled a less restrictive proposal to protect endangered Atlantic whales.

The rules are designed to protect whales from entanglement in fishing gear by requiring some equipment modifications and prohibiting lobstering in a few areas when whales are known to be present.

"I don't think (the rules) are watered down ... I think they're more workable for both the whales and the fishermen," said Andrew Rosenberg, the national marine fisheries service's regional administrator.

The new proposal won initial praise from the industry and its political supporters, who had argued a more extensive plan unveiled this year would have cost at least $50 million and forced many lobstermen out of business.

"With this announcement we will be all right," said Robin Alden, Maine's commissioner of marine resources, who had threatened to sue the federal government over its original proposal.

Alden said the controversy had made lobstermen more aware of the danger some gear poses for whales, in particular the northern right whale, whose population has been reduced to an estimated 300.

"(The whales) now have 7,000 friends looking out for them on the ocean," Alden said, citing a proposal to train fishermen to assist special rescue crews that will disentangle the whales.

Sen. John Chafee, a Rhode Island republican who negotiated with commerce secretary William Daley to get the rules modified to prevent problems for local fishermen, praised the regulations in a statement.

He called the rules "a reasonable and practical attempt to strike the right balance between preserving a critical community and livelihood on one side, and conserving the right whale species on the other."

Whales caught in gear can drown or be unable to eat. They can drag a tangle of lines and lobster traps for years. Officials hope to reduce the northern right whale's death rate from entanglement to less than one per year.

The fishing industry had complained they were being singled out for regulation. Rosenberg acknowledged whales also face the danger of being hit by ships, but said his agency cannot regulate the shipping industry.

"This is not just a problem for the fishing industry, it is a problem for people who live on the east coast and value the (whale) resource," Rosenberg told reporters.

The rules will also restrict the use of gillnets used off new England and driftnets used off Georgia and Florida. The United States will also work with Canada to coordinate whale protection efforts.

(Reuter)

Million Turtles Saved From Ravages of Man

KOSGODA, Sri Lanka — Chandrasiri Abbrew stands barefoot on the beach with a beatific look of satisfaction on his face.

At his feet, the tiny creatures pad down to the thunderous waves crashing onto the shore. He shoos off a swooping crow, scares off a prowling dog.

The short but perilous dash to safety is over. They disappear bobbing into the surging breakers and are gone.

For Chandrasiri Abbrew, who has now helped to save more than one million turtles from plundering poachers, it was another job well done and he never tires of the nightly ritual.

"I like animals. I am a happy man. People come to see my turtles every day," he says, gazing with proprietorial pride at the Kosgoda turtle hatchery on the storm-tossed western coast of Sri Lanka.

The spot, fringed by coconut trees and lashed by giant waves, is perfectly chosen. Up to 1,500 turtles a day stagger ashore to lay their eggs in the sand with an unerring homing instinct.

Conservationists Teach Fishermen to Save Turtles

Here you can see five of the world's eight species of turtle — loggerhead, green turtle, leatherback, hawksbill and the tiny olive ridley.

Chandrasiri's hatchery was founded in 1979 through a wildlife conservation grant of $100,000 from Swedish cameramaker Victor Hasselblad.

Before then, conservation was never a prime concern for the local fishermen who thought nothing of turning the turtle eggs into omelettes.



Some even believed that eating them could boost a man's virility, a boast that had Chandrasiri shaking his head in angry disbelief.

Man the Biggest Threat to Turtle's Survival

Poachers cut off their flippers for handbags and ripped off their shells to make combs.

The skies above produce many a peril for the tiny turtles on their dash for freedom. Eagles and crows sweep down to grab them before the sanctuary of the sea is reached.

Even the hatchery is locked at night and surrounded by nets to stop the preying mongoose from breaking in.

But Chandrasiri has no doubt about who is the biggest threat to the turtle.

"The animal is not dangerous. It is people who are dangerous. I am 100 percent sure of that," he said at the hatchery in this tropical paradise that Marco Polo once called the finest island on earth.

Fishermen Paid for Their Pains Now Save Turtles

The eggs are taken from the beach, buried again in sand in the safety of the hatchery and then left until they crawl warily from their shells.

They are transferred into one-day, two-day and three-day water tanks before being scooped up in nets, taken down to the beach, tipped up and watched over with almost paternal pride as they head for freedom.

The fishermen who once nonchalantly scooped the eggs up for a snack now bring them to the hatchery and are paid for their pains, a handy supplement to their incomes in the six months when they cannot fish in the monsoon season.

It is a popular tourist attraction and Chandrasiri never tires of explaining the basics of conservation to groups of up to 300 schoolchildren a day who traipse to the hatchery, tucked away down a pot-holed track.

(Contd on Pg. 14)

Mir Crew Gets Disappointing News

MOSCOW — The worn-out Mir crew got disappointing news from earth, informed by Russian officials that they won't get a chance to fix damage done to the jinxed space station on their watch.

Instead, the demanding repair job will be left to a fresh Russian crew set to blast off next month, leaving the aging Mir to creak along at half-power until then.

The decision, disclosed Friday and to be made final on Monday, reflects mission control's caution and gives the Russian replacements more time to practice the delicate, hours-long operation on earth.

But it also amounts to a vote of no confidence in the capabilities of the current Russian-American crew, which had lobbied to make the complicated repairs. Officials said the dismay was clearly evident during a satellite video linkup specially set up to break the news.

"They reacted with understanding, although on a purely human level I understand full well that they were, of course, upset," mission control chief Vladimir Solovyov told reporters.

The move indefinitely postpones repairs needed to restore full power and give the Russians a chance to meet their goal of keeping the Mir manned for two more years. It also means U.S. astronaut Michael Foale loses his chance to pinch-hit for the ailing mission commander, and will be reduced to his original standby role.

The repair operation is needed to fix damage caused earlier in the crew's tour of duty when a cargo ship collided with the Mir, punching a hole in one module and causing the station to lose half its power. It involves a spacewalk into the ruptured Spektr module.

"They would have liked to do more and they are feeling sorry and disappointed. But they are reasonable people and they understand that it was the right decision," Solovyov said.

He added that he told them not to blame themselves for the collision — one of many mishaps to befall the orbiting outpost over the last six months.

"You, the crew, have done quite a lot," he said. "A lot of experience has been gained. There is no need to engage in self-flagellation."

(Contd on Pg. 14)



MOSCOW, Russian Federation (July 18): TV picture released by WTN shows two Mir replacement crew members Pavel Vinogradov (L) and Anatoly Solovyov looking at a model of the Mir station July 15 in Moscow. A new crew will blast off August 5 to carry out the repairs on the crippled space station Mir. Mission control in Moscow announced July 18 the new crew members – two Russian cosmonauts and one French astronaut – will attempt to fix the damaged Spektr module. After tumbling chaotically through space for several hours July 17 when a crew member inadvertently unplugged a vital cable, the troubled space station is back in orbit and all systems are now working.

(AFP PHOTO)

هكذا من الأصل

JULY 21, 1997

's Saved From
of Man

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UN Chief Hails Arrest of Rwanda Genocide Suspects

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Kofi Annan welcomed news of the arrest in Nairobi Friday of seven suspects in the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, congratulating those involved and thanking Kenya for its cooperation.

In a statement issued through a UN spokesman, he said the arrests, including those of former Premier Jean Kambanda and former senior military commander Gratien Kabiligi, "demonstrate the determination of the international community to bring to justice those accused of perpetrating some of the worst crimes known to mankind."

Between 500,000 and a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed by Hutu troops and militia in the 1994 ethnic slaughter in Rwanda. A UN war crimes tribunal was set up later that year to prosecute perpetrators.

Annan said justice and peace were indivisible and that, "without justice, healing cannot begin".

"The secretary-general extends his congratulations to those involved in today's action, and his thanks to the government of Kenya for their indispensable cooperation.

"He hopes it will not be long before others indicted by the international tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia are also brough to justice," the statement added.

The seven suspects, who were picked up in an operation involving tribunal officials and Kenyan police, were flown to Arusha, Tanzania, the seat of the tribunal. (AFP)

UN Urges Colombia to Outlaw Self-Defense Groups

BOGOTA — The United Nations has urged Colombia to outlaw peasant self-defence groups operating across Colombia, citing "alarming reports" about their role in its endemic political bloodshed.

Attorney General Jaime Bernal Cuellar said earlier this week that a decree issued in 1994, permitting the formation of peasant defence groups or rural militias, was constitutionally sound and that there was no legal reason to ban them.

But Almudena Mazarrasa, director of the UN human rights office that opened in Colombia in April, said in a statement late Friday that the decree should be revoked.

Senior military officials have staunchly defended the self-defence groups, known collectively as Convivir. But Mazarrasa alluded to frequent charges that they are allied to right-wing paramilitary groups and fighting a dirty war against leftist rebels and suspected rebel sympathizers.

In the interest of protecting "the civilian population within the context of Colombia's internal armed conflict" they should be banned, she said.

"The office (of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights) has expressed its concern to the Colombian authorities and it continues in its efforts to obtain official information clarifying alarming reports about the activities and probable violations of human rights and international humanitarian law stemming from the existence of the Convivir," Mazarrasa said.

Colombia's constitutional court is to rule next month on whether the decree legalizing the formation of private armed groups should be revoked. (Reuter)

Sri Lanka Charter to Stress Children's Rigths



COLOMBO — Sri Lanka's new constitution will stress children's rights and contain "enforceable" safeguards against drug pushing, pedophilia, and forced labor of minors, the government said on Saturday.

"In its proposals the government has focused special attention on children's rights," the People's Alliance (PA) administration of President Chandrika Kumaratunga said.

"Among the new rights proposed are the right to a name from birth, protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse, degradation and exploitative labor practices, protection from exposure to physical and moral hazards," a government statement said.

In recent years, Sri Lanka's beaches and resorts have become notorious for pedophile activities and child trafficking.

The government said the draft constitution will incorporate a special article for children's rights, and also cover minors through separate provisions against slavery and forced labor.

The draft constitution, which primarily aims to devolve power to minorities and end the country's 13-year-old ethnic crisis, is currently being debated by a parliamentary select committee.

But discussions have stalled due to differences between Sri Lanka's various political parties.

The government has said it plans to bring the constitutional reform proposals to Parliament before the budget session in November. (Reuter)

UN Force Weighed for Brazzaville After OAU Request

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations is working on plans for a UN peacekeeping force to shore up a ceasefire in the Congolese capital Brazzaville, Western diplomats said Friday.

The diplomats told AFP that the Organization of African Unity officially asked for a UN force after attempts to secure financing for a multinational force failed.

The multinational force, of about 1,000 troops, would have been authorized by the 15-member UN Security Council and financed by participating nations.

However Francophone African states which offered to provide troops for the operation refused to pay for the intervention, and no other states stepped forward with financing offers.

UN officials said that developed countries might also provide troops to a UN force, which would be financed by the United Nations, although no details were available. France has offered only logistical support.

The UN officials stressed that both Congolese President Pascal Lissouba and his rival ex-President Denis Sassou-Nguesso would have to agree in writing to cooperate with a UN force.

The UN peacekeeping department is expected to brief the Security Council on its contacts in the course of next week, the diplomats said.

But authorizing a UN force could still take time, as it would require approval by the Security Council — and that of the Republican-dominated U.S. Congress.

UN chief Kofi Annan has said that a ceasefire must be in place before a force is sent to Brazzaville, where its main role would be to secure the airport.

Peace talks aimed at ending six weeks of fighting in the Congo began in Libreville on Friday under mediation led by Gabonese President Omar Bongo.

Organization of African Unity and UN envoy Mohamed Sahnoun was also attending the talks.

The Congo crisis erupted on June 5, when government troops attempted to disarm Sassou Nguesso's private militia in the capital in the run-up to presidential elections that had been scheduled for later this month.

Since then as many as 2,000 people have been killed in clashes between rival troops, according to humanitarian officials. (AFP)

Charities Plea for Immediate Action in Sierra Leone

LONDON — British government officials were meeting Friday with aid charities after a warning that immediate action is needed to stop Sierra Leone sliding into a "humanitarian emergency."

Ten aid agencies issued a joint call for immediate help with medicine and food to stop conditions worsening.

British workers in the violence-torn African country say there are "classic early warning signs" of a crisis, including thousands of refugees on the move, prices doubling, food shortages and continued fighting between rival factions.

The agencies, including Oxfam, Save the Children and Actionaid, say the world should learn from the disaster in Rwanda, where thousands died and 1.5 billion pounds (2.4 billion dollars) was spent on the refugee crisis after a failure to take early action.

They want more effort to find a peaceful solution to the political turmoil in Sierra Leone, where a coup in May has thrown the country into chaos.

Officials from the Department of International Development were meeting Friday with aid agency representatives to discuss the situation. A spokesman for the department said: "We are prepared to consider any proposal as long as it doesn't prop up the military regime."

The British government gave 12 million pounds in aid to Sierra Leone in the year preceding the military coup, but completely cut off assistance after it. (AFP)

Saudi Starts Campaign to Kick Out Illegal Aliens



DUBAI — Saudi Arabia on Saturday launched a nationwide campaign to drive out more than 100,000 illegal aliens from the kingdom, the daily Arab News said.

The Ministry of Labor granted an amnesty to foreigners who had entered Saudi Arabia on visit or pilgrimage visas but stayed longer than their papers permitted, the English-language newspaper said. The amnesty would also cover expatriate workers who had run away from their sponsors.

"The crackdown will help to deport at least 100,000 illegal overstayers, mainly to Asian countries," the paper said.

The campaign was also designed to help solve current labor problems, in line with the country's commitment to provide jobs for an extra 659,900 Saudis by the year 2000.

There are no official Saudi unemployment statistics, but diplomats estimate it could be as high as 20 percent.

"This drive to flush out foreigners will conclude by the middle of October this year," Arab News quoted the director general of passports, Major-General Assa'd Abdul Karim al-Furaih, as saying.

The Ministry of Interior said those sheltering or helping illegal immigrants could face up to a year in prison and fines of up to 100,000 riyals ($26,700) for each infraction.

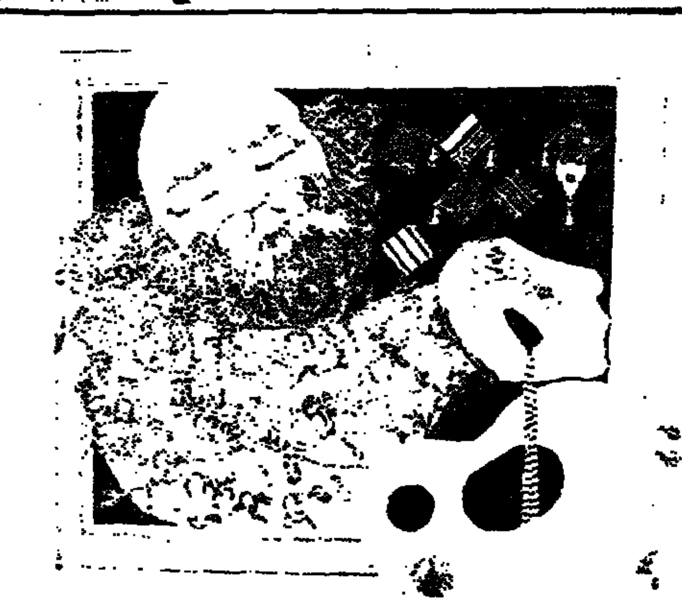
Saudi Arabia each year deports several thousand illegal aliens — mostly from the Indian subcontinent — who stay on to work after entering the country among the more than one million foreigners who visit to perform the Muslim Haj pilgrimage.

Thousands of others enter the country illegally or overstay after their resident permits have expired. Foreigners comprise one-third of Saudi Arabia's estimated 18 million population.

Saudi Arabia said in 1995 more than 100,000 illegal foreign workers left the country after authorities gave them a month to leave or face punishment.

Saudi authorities say such violators pose a security threat and have organized previous campaigns to arrest and deport them. (Reuter)

A Trip to Iran, Alone



Huseinov, Painting With Brush of Love

Part 12

By Husein Huseinov

That same afternoon I headed from Mashhad to Dargaz, On the way I was preparing myself to change to the themes of the villages and the local people. This I wanted to do since I was here with the filming crew once and in my previous work I was quite inspired by the life here and the surroundings which consisted mainly of simply-built houses with straight lines under the torquoise sky.

Dargaz

Here all the right conditions for an artist prevail. There was also a gathering of friends, and everybody seems to know everybody else, and they speak my language.

It is a beautiful, clean, and heart-stirring city overall. They even tell me that seldom do they lock their houses. Spectacular springs, and healthy cows, may the Almighty God bless these people and their land. It all reminds me of my childhood.

Although conditions in Dargaz were even better for me than Isfahan and Shiraz, my efficiency in work seemed to have somehow suffered. What I had in mind was outside of the city and inconvenient at the moment. I did a few sketches which came out all right.

I would like here to thank all the good people who helped me travel half of a country without knowing the language and who gave of themselves and their time to make my journey such a delight.

I was pulled towards this ancient land to get to know its culture first hand, and in doing so I got to know spiritually a land and its culture as well. I believe knowing an ancient culture is simply impossible, but should the hands of fortune direct me towards this land and its people, I will not hesitate for a moment. I shall go again. *(Concluded)*

Ayatollah Seyed Reza Bahaoddini, a Life Sketch

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Seyed Reza Bahaoddini, one of the outstanding ulema and maraja taqlid (religious authority or literally source of imitation) in Qom passed away in July 19 after suffering prolonged heart disorder. His body laid to rest in Qom amid glorious ceremonies on Sunday.

The ayatollah was born in 29 March 1908 in the holy city of Qom. His father was a pious farmer and was greatly esteemed by the people of Qom because of his righteousness and altruism.

Seyed Reza was a genius. In his childhood and in the prime of his life he climbed the highest rungs of the ladder of knowledge with astounding speed. At the age of 25 he obtained the status of Ijtihad (independent strive to deduce laws from Islamic sources). In the entire course of his study he displayed exemplary assiduousness and perseverance by devoting 16 hours a day to scientific activities such as study, teaching and engagement in polemics.

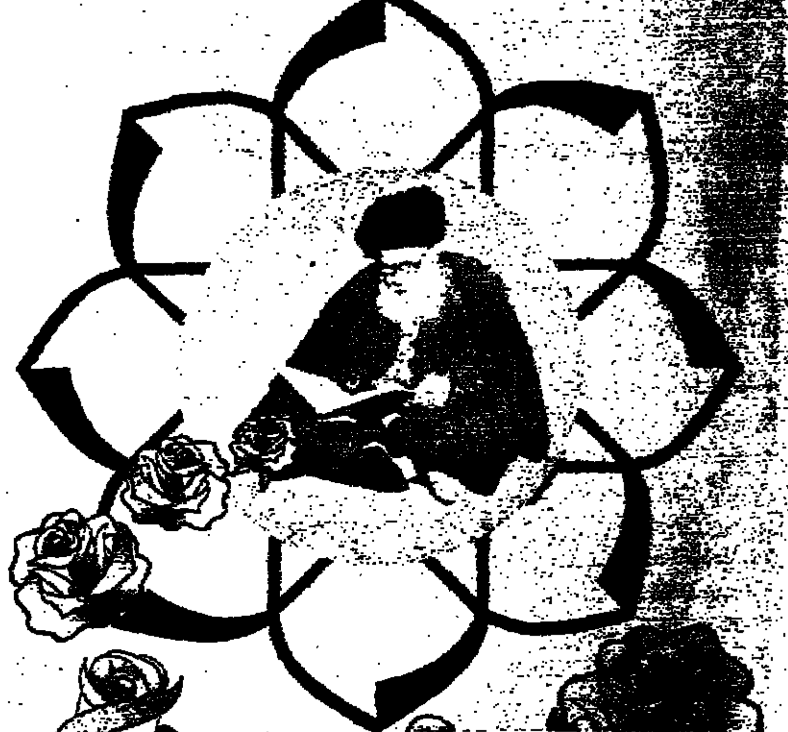
The 90 year old ayatollah devoted 60 years of his life to teaching at the Qom Theological Seminary. This long period of time made an influential and accomplished character out of him. His salient feature was his devotion to spirituality and lofty mystical stations which he had mastered. He was quick sighted and perceptive prophesying events some years before they take place. His moral advises were unpretentious and candid and penetrated deep within the interlocutor.

The departed ayatollah perceived non-material facts intuitively. He detested to be known for ability to portend future events and thus many of his predictions have remained unspoken.

However, those who engaged in long conversation with him or were persistent and inquiring could get to know the ayatollah's exalted station.

Ayatollah Bahaoddini had most of the Qoran by heart and was greatly conversant of the narrations handed down from the Holy Prophet (SAW) and Immaculate Imams (AS). He cherished fasting, saying prayer at midnight and helping others solve their problems.

The prominent ayatollah has not left behind published work, yet many of the existing politico-religious personalities in Iran have been his students.



Ayatollah Bahaoddini was the lifelong and intimate friend of the late Imam Khomeini and venerated his views and ideas.

He counted Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei as the fittest successor to the late Imam Khomeini. Many years prior to the departure of the Imam, Ayatollah Bahaoddini in private meetings when there was talk of the Imam's successor observed: "Of course, no one will be like Haj Aqa Ruhollah (referring to Imam Khomeini), but Mr. Khamenei is closest to the Imam. The one to whom we place hope is Mr. Khamenei. You may not accept it from me and may be surprised, but this is my prophesy. It is crystal clear to me. Only Seyed Ali Khamenei."

In the years between 1982 and 1988, the ayatollah's prediction was made in different occasions in response to the question posed regarding the Imam's successor. At that time there was no talk of the leadership of Ayatollah Khamenei after the late Imam Khomeini.

In March 13-14, 1996, a seminar on "Theological Seminary and Purification" was held in Qom in glory of the efforts of this outstanding ayatollah. The seminar was sponsored by the Islamic Propagation Organization which presented pamphlets and articles illustrating the different aspects of the character of Ayatollah Bahaoddini.

On the Vahdat Film and Photo Festival in Tabriz

By Mohsen Mohammadi

TABRIZ — The 13th Vahdat Film and Photo Festival opened in Mo'allem Hall in Tabriz on Friday. The festival sparked the glimpses of hope in the hearts of the interested and committed artists of Iranian film industry.

The 12th festival held last year with the participation of over 200 filmmakers gave valuable experience to the film experts. Due to two years of interruption, such a welcome was not out of expectation.

What the 13th festival turned out to be at the very beginning, was shocking to the expectations of the responsible authorities and festival organizers. The vast welcome of the 13th festival amazed the festival organizers. Doubts turned into the hope.

The number of films received by the festival reveal once again the fact that Iranian film industry, and capabilities of the Iranian young filmmakers are not yet duly recognized. There are many greats in film industry in different corners of this vast country still undiscovered.

The quality and quantity of the films despatched, picture the festival as a religion-centered one. It has deeply rooted in the hearts of the Muslim artists especially the war-handicapped artists.

Now in the midst of the 13th festival, we dare say the festival has discovered its main line. It knows what to do. It has its own addresses and is supported by a large number of filmmakers, script-writers, and committed photographers.

Therefore, the responsibility of the responsible authorities of such a festival is rendering material and spiritual supports to the artists who take their presence in the art and culture arena as their religious duty.

The coming generation needs a kind of cinema that can well meet their spiritual requirements.

What responsibilities are we burdened with in fulfilling the spiritual needs of the young generation?

Film Festival Says It's After Quality, Not Big Names

ROME — Demi Moore, Woody Allen and Emma Thompson are some of the names on this year's bill for the Venice Film Festival, but organizers insist top quality and not top name was their criterion for selection.

The festival in the lagoon city opens on August 27 and runs through Sept. 6.

"We did not select films of famous directors if we did not consider them worthy, neither did we select bad films because they presented stars," Felice Laudadio, festival director, said Friday in presenting the lineup.

"We prefer high quality films (Contd on Pg. 14)

Stallone Acquires Rights to Film on Formul One Racing

LOS ANGELES — Actor Sylvester Stallone has acquired the rights to produce a film on Formula One Racing, though he has no plans to star in the movie, his publicist said Thursday.

Stallone will produce the film, assigning a writer for a screenplay of a four-character story about the world of Formula One Racing. He got the rights from racing entrepreneur Bernie Eccelestone.

"Boxing and auto racing have always been two of my favorite sports," he said in a prepared statement.

"I've had the opportunity to bring a boxing film to the big screen, and now with the assistance of Bernie Eccelestone, we will see extraordinary insights and glimpses of coverage that are inextricable components to this most passionate of speed sports."

Production starts in late 1998 or early 1999.

(AFP)



NEW YORK, United States (July 15): Demonstrators from the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (L) protest at premiere of new Jackie Chan movie, "Operation Condor" across from the Ziegfeld Theater in New York. The group protests what they say are stereotypical portrayals of Arabs in the film as violent, unscrupulous and irrational. The movie is released by Miramax, a subsidiary of Disney, which drew protests over the depiction of Arab characters in the film, "Aladdin".

(AFP PHOTO)

Moscow Film Festival Opens

MOSCOW — Italian screen stars Gina Lollobrigida and Alberto Sordi were among the celebrity guests Saturday as the Moscow International Film Festival opened at a refurbished movie house on Pushkin Square.

Lollobrigida and Sordi strolled past crowds of star-gazers, past a military honor guard and up a stairway into the newly opened Pushkin Movie and Concert Hall - (Contd on Pg. 14)

Daily Food for Thought

On Anger

Wise anger is like fire from a flint: there is great ado to get it out; and when it does come, it is out again immediately.

MATTHEW HENRY